



Health Care Careers e-Letter

August 2009

Dear Reader,

Hospital layoffs have garnered a lot of press of late, but if we take the long view, it's clear that the nation's health care workforce needs are not going to diminish, especially as the population ages. A recent report by the President's Council of Economic Advisors estimates 3.5 million new jobs across the sector by 2016 ([HealthLeaders Media](#), July 13).



The [executive summary of the report](#) (PDF), in fact, specifically mentions expected job growth in "medical records and health information technicians, registered nurses, clinical laboratory technicians, and physical therapists."

Current, emerging and future trends in health care workforce is the topic of an [AMA-sponsored Webinar](#) on Sept. 9, 2:00 EST.

Speakers have been confirmed!

- Mary Anne Kelly, Vice President, Metropolitan Chicago Hospital Council
- Sheryl R. McLain, MS, Executive Director, Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Center
- Lynn Brooks (moderator), health care workforce consultant

This live event will address questions such as:

- What are the top health care career opportunities over the next ten years?
- What impact has the recent economic downturn had on current and projected shortages?
- How can local groups better promote health care careers in secondary and post-secondary institutions for both traditional and non-traditional students? More than 30 individuals have already signed up. [Register now!](#)

We [welcome your responses](#) on this or other health care career issues.

Best Regards,
Fred Donini-Lenhoff, editor

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1. Cool \$200 mill available from the feds for health care training

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced the [availability of \\$200 million in funding to expand training of health care professionals](#). The funds are expected to train approximately 8,000 students and credentialed health professionals by the end of fiscal year 2010.

The funds are part of the \$500 million allotted to HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to address workforce shortages under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Funding will go towards:

- Supporting health professions scholarships and loans
- Bolstering primary care training programs
- Helping health professions training programs purchase needed equipment
- Increasing health professions diversity
- Strengthening the public health workforce

Also see "HHS Releases \$200 Million for Healthcare Training," [HealthLeaders Media](#), July 29.

Also on the federal front, the U.S. Department of Labor has announced a [\\$220 million competition](#) (PDF) to fund projects that prepare workers for careers in health care (including allied health) and other high growth industries.

In related news, a Senate committee report (S. Rept. 111-066) approved a bill that provides \$460.1 million for the health professions programs, including \$243.4 million for Title VII and \$216.7 million for Title VIII. In addition, for the first time since FY 2005, the bill provides funding (\$5.7 million) for the Health Workforce Information and Analysis program.

2. Two-year schools: Caught in a vise

A recent report aired on National Public Radio, "[Bleak Economy Squeezes Community Colleges](#)," finds the nation's two-year schools caught between increased demand and funding cuts.

One health professions student interviewed in the report lamented the difficulty of getting a place in an anatomy class he needs for his physical therapy degree.

Help for community colleges may be forthcoming from Washington, as President Obama has proposed billions in new spending to help an additional 5 million Americans earn degrees and certificates at community colleges in the next decade ([Inside Higher Ed](#), July 15).

Some frontline workers in hospitals are getting a helping hand from their employers to get additional training and a better job ([Chicago Public Radio](#), July 6).

3. The 2009 survey of health professions programs coming in September

The 2009 version of the Annual Survey of Health Professions Education Programs should be e-mailed to program directors in September. This survey will collect data for the 2008-2009 academic year.

4. New Health Care Careers Directory now available

Order your copy now of the updated *2009-2010 Health Care Careers Directory*. Our newly expanded edition now includes more than 8,000 educational programs in 81 different health care fields.

To order your copy, call 800 621-8335. To receive a copy of the order form, send an e-mail to meded@ama-assn.org. For fastest service, be sure to specify the phrase "HCCD" in the e-mail's subject line.

5. Featured profession: Perfusionist

Perfusionists operate extracorporeal circulation equipment during any medical situation where it is necessary to support or temporarily replace the patient's circulatory or respiratory function.

Check out these informative links, from the [AMA](#) (PDF) and the [American Society of Extra-Corporeal Technology](#) for more information on education and careers in the field.

Finally, be sure to consult the AMA's chart of [health care career income ranges](#), for salary in this and other health professions fields.

6. Featured program: Quinnipiac University, cardiovascular perfusion

Each issue we profile a randomly selected educational program from the Health Care Careers Directory.

This month we feature the cardiovascular perfusion program at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn.

Quinnipiac's [Master of Health Science in cardiovascular perfusion](#) is one of only eight perfusion graduate-level programs in the country. The program's rigorous academic and clinical courses prepare students for the varied responsibilities of a clinical perfusionist.

7. Celebrate health professions' events in August and September

Following is a list of events in August and September honoring various health professions; many thanks to *e-Letter* reader Debbie Schwarzberg for compiling this list.

The complete list for 2009 is available on the Web site of the [Health Professions Network \(HPN\)](#).

[National Medical Dosimetrist Day](#), Aug. 19

[National Surgical Technologist Week](#), Sept. 20–26

[Health Professions Network Fall Meeting](#), Sept. 23–26, Tampa, Fla.

8. Free CD-ROM offers info on careers in podiatric medicine

The American Podiatric Medical Association has updated its CD-ROM on careers in podiatric medicine for 2009. You can request up to five copies of the CD now by e-mailing apmaorder@apma.org or calling (301) 581-9280 and providing your name and mailing address.

[Preview the video online.](#)

9. California faces challenge of allied health workforce shortages

Lack of educational capacity, faculty shortages, and an insufficient number of clinical training opportunities are three of the key barriers facing California as it works to meet its allied health workforce needs.

A new [issue brief](#) (PDF) from the California Hospital Association Workforce Committee, sponsored in part by The California Endowment, looks at these challenges and considers solutions that address the long-term need for allied health professionals in the state, despite current budget and economic conditions.

10. Report tracks use of medical assistants in community clinics

A new [issue brief](#) (PDF) from the Center for the Health Professions, "The Utilization of Medical Assistants in California's Licensed Community Clinics," looks at patterns in community clinic utilization of medical assistants (MAs) between 2005 and 2007.

Key themes include overall growth in clinic use of MAs and differences in their utilization based on clinic site location and size. For example, rural clinic sites were more likely than urban sites to have reported use of medical assistants, but rural clinic sites also reported fewer medical assistants per primary care provider.

11. Society for the Arts in Healthcare issues call for papers

The [Society for the Arts in Healthcare](#) has issued a call for papers for its 21st Annual International Conference, April 28 – May 1, 2010, in Minneapolis.

Submit a paper, panel, workshop or poster presentation detailing best practices, model programs, and cutting-edge research.

Hurry, the call for papers submission deadline is Sept. 25.

Questions? Call (202) 299-9770.

12. Medical laboratory profession moving to single certification

As of Oct. 23, a single agency will handle certification for medical laboratory professionals, based on an agreement between the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Registry (BOR) and the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA).

The new, consolidated credentialing entity will be called the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC); the NCA will be dissolved as a corporation.

Certification terminology will also change, with the "ASCP" suffix attached to all BOC certifications. Medical Technologists (MT) and Clinical Laboratory Scientists (CLS) will be Medical Laboratory Scientists (MLS), and Medical Laboratory Technicians (MLT) and Clinical Laboratory Technicians (CLT) will be unified as Medical Laboratory Technicians (MLT) ([Dark Daily](#), Aug. 3).

Want to learn more about graduate medical education?

The [Graduate Medical Education \(GME\) e-Letter](#) is a free monthly e-mail newsletter that covers a wide range of issues affecting GME -- everything from resident work hours and health workforce concerns to updates on accreditation activities and development of new subspecialties.

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About us

The [Health Care Careers e-Letter](#) is produced by the American Medical Association (AMA).

This monthly newsletter covers educational trends and career-related issues in the health professions.

Give us your story ideas and feedback

Direct comments to [Fred Donini-Lenhoff](#), (312) 464-4635

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