

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

BY:

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It has been repeatedly said that life is a journey, not a destination. And in that journey, learning is our ever-present companion for learning is a never-ending process. It has also been said that the 21st century illiterate is no longer one who cannot read and write but one who no longer carries the capacity to learn, unlearn and relearn.

With these thoughts in mind, I firmly believe that implementation of continuing professional education (CPE) requirement for all professions is timely and relevant. I have, therefore, decided to write this article on Continuing Professional Education.

For some, this CPE requirement is not welcome as they consider it a bother in their structured schedules. However, to professionals like us, we welcome it because it gives us a chance to update our knowledge and skills. In this time of globalization, we really need to be aware of the recent innovations and developments especially in our major field: Clinical Laboratory Diagnosis.

Authors on Leadership like Peter Drucker, Tom Peters, Dennis Waitley, Zig Ziglar and others seem to be thinking the same that there are two important qualities every organization like PAMET-USA should have. These are:

1. Excellence, which is essentially the pursuit of continuous learning and improvement; and
2. Innovation. In fact, Tom Peters says, "Wake up and understand. You either innovate or you evaporate!"

Our focus is on us, the individual PAMET-USA members. How do we apply these two virtues of excellence and innovativeness in our career as medical technologists / clinical laboratory scientists? How do we walk the path of continuous learning and improvement? If we were to pull out a piece of paper and honestly write down important information about our life including our accomplishments, our skills and crafts, what new things could we add to our resume? What new ideas and information can we gain from seminars, workshops and conventions, - professional-wise and personal-wise? If at the end of our seminars, workshops and conventions we have not gained new ideas and information, then we have not walked the path of continuous learning.

The successful medical technologist / clinical laboratory scientist for the 21st century is one who is capable of multi-tasking. He should be able to learn additional skills and crafts as he seeks to master those skills that he already has.

God's Little Devotional Book for Leaders gives a wise and timely reminder: **"No skills you learn will ever be lost to you, or prove to be of little use. If nothing more, the learning of new information and new skills builds confidence and exercises the mind. One of the secrets of great leaders is continuing education. Never stop learning! That is what gives you an edge over the competition!"**

And so my dear colleagues, this challenge is given to us: Let us make Continuing Professional Education a way of life!