Medical Mindfulness and Hidden Health: KAP Project for CLS Awareness
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Introduction

- More than 10 billion laboratory tests are performed in the United States each year
- Laboratory test results constitute an estimated 70 percent of the patient’s medical record and are vital to the diagnosis and treatment of illness & disease [Fig. 1]

Results

- Only one-third of the participants (34.5%) could describe some of the duties of a Clinical Laboratory Scientist [Fig. 3]

Motivation

- Since laboratory professionals often work behind the scenes, few people know much about the vital testing they perform every day
- Using a Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) survey method, this study was conducted to determine the awareness that college students at a Texas University have of Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) professionals and their responsibilities.

Methods

- We surveyed 234 undergraduate students and asked 5 scenario-based questions and 5 demographic questions
- The questions were designed to gauge their knowledge of the Clinical Laboratory Science profession and of other common health professions, and to note the frequency that they visit various health professionals [Fig. 2]

Conclusions

- The data collected demonstrates the need to inform and educate the public about the medical laboratory
- To increase recruitment there should be a requirement to discuss Clinical Laboratory Science in college, whether in the classroom or through a health advisor, to increase students’ knowledge and awareness of CLS
- This could diminish the shortage of vacancies within the profession and no longer make Clinical Laboratory Science the “hidden profession that saves lives”

References

- Lab Med | © American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science

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