Exchanging Best Practices & Creating State-wide Policy Change for the Lab Workforce NY State Laboratory Leadership Consortium

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Brief Summary of Case Study:

The New York State Laboratory Leadership Consortium presented on their genesis and mobilization to exchange laboratory best practices at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to support regional COVID-19 testing and public health emergency responses and, subsequently, to collectively impact state-wide policies affecting laboratory licensure for laboratory professionals in New York.

Lessons Learned/Best Practices Applied by Faculty:

1. Communication during unprecedented times is absolutely necessary. Consider opportunities to gather a peer group (e.g. the Consortium) for the common good of medical and societal communities in response to public health emergencies (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic).

2. Institutional participation within Consortium meetings needs to be organized. Organization best practices for running a laboratory-based Consortium include: assigning a secretariat, recruitment of speakers, providing detailed agenda prior to the meet, and recording meeting minutes. Provide an open atmosphere where opinions of all partners feel heard.

3. Rotation of institutional delegates makes for efficient and balanced meetings. Ensure that the exchange of laboratory best practices around the pandemic in meeting is specific, efficient and result driven.

4. We ALL have a place in Public Health: government officials, academia institutions, health care systems, all support the well-being of societal communities and laboratory workforce.

5. Our voices need to be heard: the Consortium became a vital piece of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. It is critical to create a unified laboratory “voice” to effectively communicate to policy makers about needs and recommendations of the laboratory workforce.

6. Advocacy is a never-ending constant; it is necessary through the length of the pandemic, to impact legislative change, and to maintain a constant touch-point as emerging laboratory and public health needs and challenges arise. Establish partners in order to strengthen advocacy efforts and effect high-level policy change.

7. As laboratory professionals, we need to support visibility of the profession and laboratory workforce advocacy efforts to the next generation. Engage with potential future leaders in the medical and public health laboratory workforce, as the needs of the workforce will continue with their generation.

Visit our hub site to find additional resources for this Building Bridges Across the Laboratory session!

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