

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

Presenters: *Jim Crawford, MD; John Tomaszewski, MD; Jenny Libien, MD; Eloise Aita, PhD; Kenra Ford*



## 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.  
*All parties should actively communicate and engage to support laboratory workforce and public health emergency efforts.*
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.*

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Visit our [hub site](#) to find additional resources for this Building Bridges Across the Laboratory session!

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