



**Wisconsin State
Laboratory of Hygiene**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

“Maintaining Interest With Sentinel Laboratories”

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History of Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network (WCLN)

- WLRN formally established after 9/11/01
- Laboratory Technical Advisory Committee (LabTAG) in 2004
- WLRN renamed WCLN in 2008
 - WCLN Statement of Purpose
- 135 laboratories in the WCLN
- ~12 major Healthcare Systems
- 61 Sentinel Clinical Laboratories



How Do We Maintain the Network?





What Do the WCLN Sentinel and Non-Sentinel Laboratories Need?

- Timely Communication
- Opportunities for Networking
- Free Relevant Education
- Encouragement and Guidance
- Genuine Interest, Concern, and Support
- Recognition of Achievements
- Partner - not Competitor, or Regulator
- Mutual Respect





Timely Communication

- Emergency messaging

- Email
- Fax
- Webinar



EMERGENCY



- Listserv

- Routine newsletter

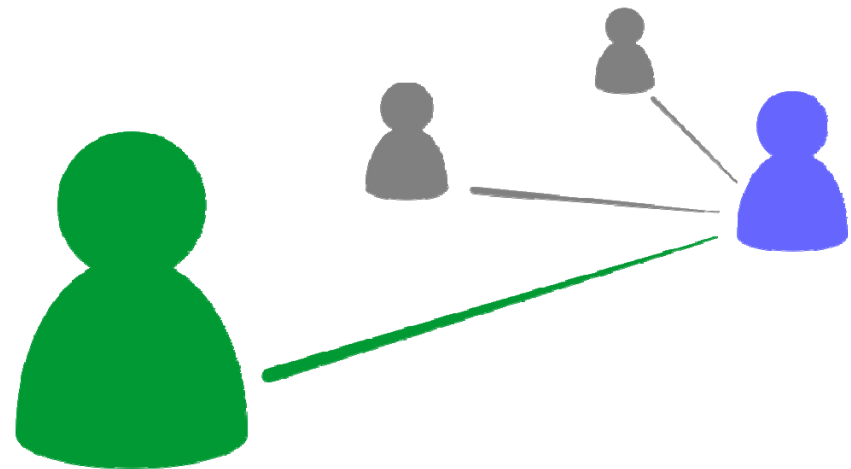


LISTSERV

Opportunities for Networking

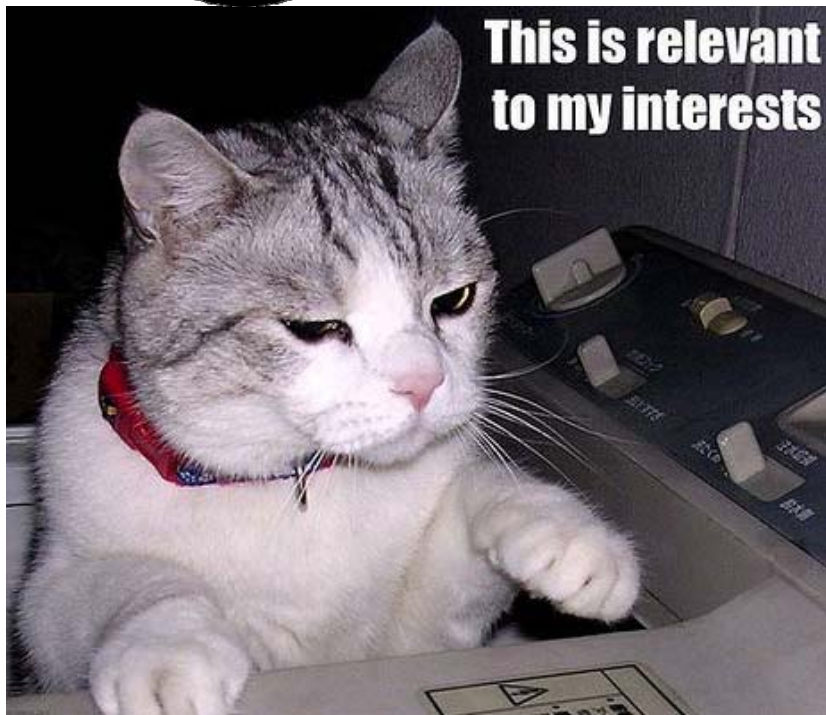


- Annual regional meetings
- Technical workshops
- Laboratory site visits
- Listserv





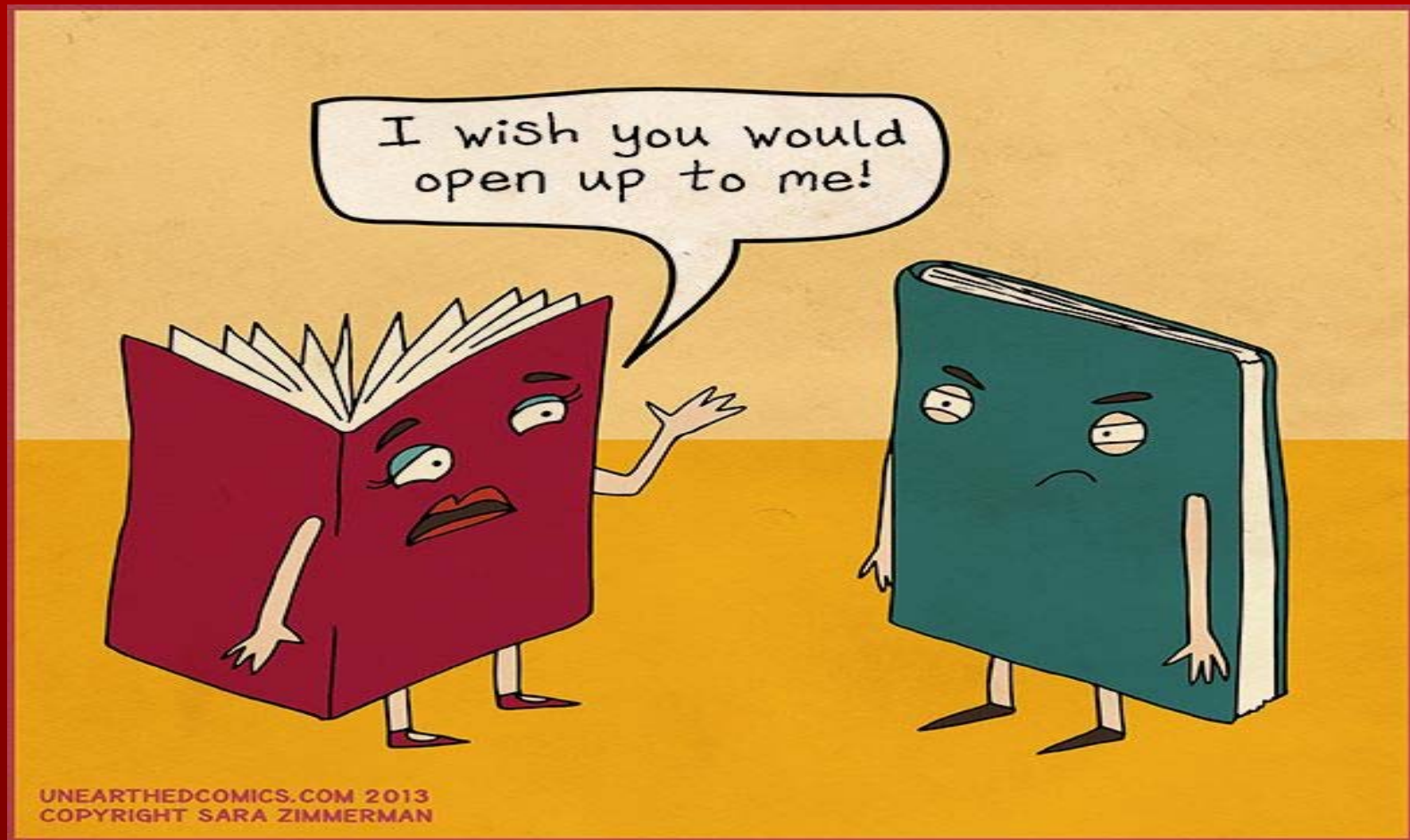
Free and Relevant Education



- All hazards
- Biosafety - risk assessment
- Gram stain
- Emerging pathogens and other hot topics
- Antimicrobial susceptibility testing
- Molecular and other emerging technologies



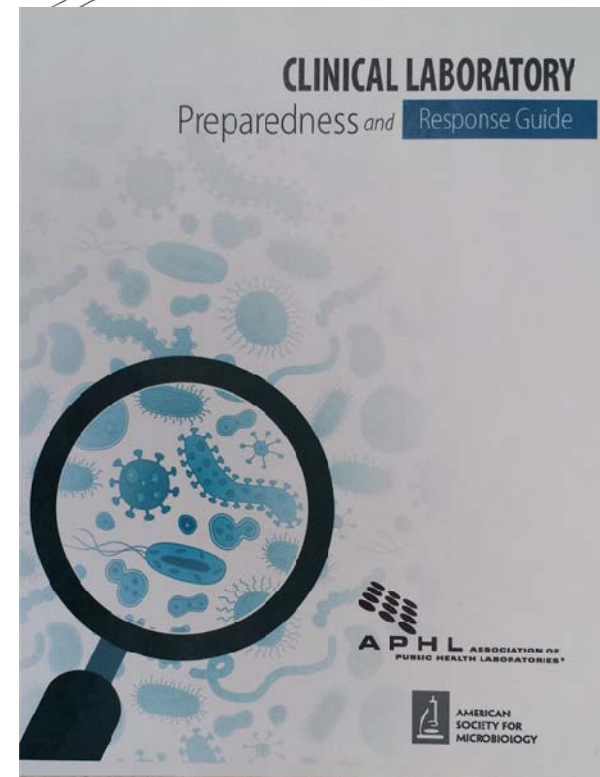
What is Relevant to Your Sentinel Clinical Laboratories?





Encouragement and Guidance

- Newsletter messaging
- Regional meetings
- 24/7 emergency pager availability
- Laboratory site visits
- Technical workshops and meetings
- Risk assessment tool
- “*Clinical Laboratory Preparedness and Response Guide*”





Genuine Interest, Concern and Support

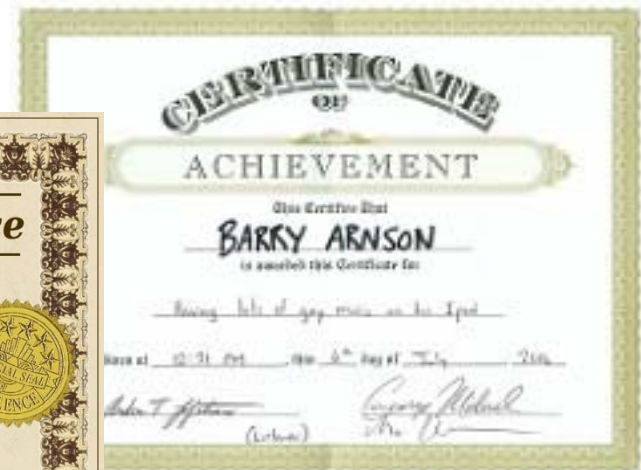


One big happy family!

Recognition of Achievements



- Certificate of accomplishment
- Recognition in laboratory newsletter or other publication
- Visit laboratory to present an award
 - Encourage labs to invite management to award ceremony
- Press release





Be a Partner – Not a Competitor, or Regulator



- Don't pursue the same test market
- Don't threaten to report gaps to a regulatory agency
- Do look for opportunities to collaborate





Mutual Respect

- If you have mutual respect you have the foundations of a great relationship.
- Recognize and respect that there are limiting factors that may effect your success





Limiting Factors to Your Success

- Time
- Staff
- Money
- Different priorities
- Little support from management





Benefits to Maintaining Our WCLN

- Well developed two way communication network is useful for sharing a variety of laboratory related issues of both clinical and public health importance
- Easily obtain excellent sample and data submission for surveillance programs
- More easily achieve a coordinated response during outbreaks
- Support from clinical laboratories for the WSLH and the work we do



In the end your success or failure in maintaining a laboratory network depends on the relationships you build with your colleagues in the sentinel clinical laboratories and how much they respect and value you and the relationship you have developed.



Comments or Questions?

