



The Caribbean Association of Medical Technologists (CASMET)

For Laboratory Professionals

An Affiliate of American Medical Technologists (AMT)



CASMET NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023



Anguilla



Antigua and Barbuda



Bahamas



Barbados



Belize



Bermuda



British Virgin Islands



The Cayman Islands



Curacao



Dominica



Grenada



Guyana



Haiti



Jamaica



St Kitts & Nevis



St Lucia



St Maarten



St Vincent & Grenadines



Suriname



Trinidad & Tobago

2022 Year End Review



Table of Contents

2023 Here we Go!

The Restrictions are relaxing, Travel has normalized, and Economies worldwide are beginning to rebuild. The Covid-19 Pandemic has taught



us many lessons each with the will to endure and prepare for new challenges beyond our imagination. As the World prepares, so too, the Caribbean Association of Medical Technologists, for laboratory professionals, have begun preparations.

We have managed to host two successful Regional Council Meetings face to face and we are preparing for our Scientific Symposium and Biennial General Meeting in October 22nd- 26th 2023 in Barbados.

Barbados is home many natural wonders including diverse flora and fauna. Barbados is home to a healthy population of Hawksbill Turtles which nests between April to November every year. The Hawksbill Sea turtle is endangered and protected and monitored by the Barbados Sea Turtle Project. As we continue to improve our Association and achieve strategic our strategic goals, we wish our members continued success in all your endeavours.

Regards,

CASMET Editor, Richard Singh

"One's Destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things." – Henry Miller



1 Cover Page

2 Table of Contents & Introduction

3 Presidents Message

4 Greetings from CASMET Liaison &

Greetings from AMT Southern

District Councillor

5 Greetings from Executive

Councillor

6 Brief History of CASMET, Vision

and Mission Statements

7 Mark Your Calendar! BGM 2023

Flyer

8 Meet Your Regional Council

Members

9 RCM May & October 2022

Highlights

10 RCM Continued, References, End

DISCLAIMER

The Caribbean Association of Medical Technologists (CASMET), an affiliate of American Medical Technologists (AMT) is proud to bring you this Newsletter. Editorial opinions printed in THE CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS (CASMET) Newsletter, February 2023, are those of the AUTHOR, and are not the official policy of CASMET. Photos are PROPERTY OF CASMET OR THE EDITOR unless otherwise noted.



Message from CASMET President



Greetings to all Members and Stakeholders,

Time certainly flies. With each fleeting moment the Biennium is going full speed. It feels like just a few days ago I accepted the challenge to serve as the CASMET Regional President. I did so with humility and gratitude that I can contribute to my noble profession. This I pledge to do with diligence.

The 2021-2023 Regional Council and our AMT Partners are cognizant of the fact that we are serving in an unprecedented, unusual time. Faced with the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic, new strategies and survival skills had to be set in motion to keep the business of the Association viable, the minute the Regional Council took the oath of office. I applaud their resilience, courage, persistence, and cooperation. Being the online elected Council we are, we quickly put together strategies utilizing online platforms such as zoom, go to meeting, and even WhatsApp and started to work. We have had several meetings online including Regional Council Round up meetings, Branch Chairpersons meeting, Branch Membership Round up meeting, various Committee meetings, took part in varying Branch activities, Continuing Education sessions and even ratified membership applications online. I am happy we seized the opportunity disguised in the COVID-19 challenge to accomplish more together. We have so much to be grateful for.

No one was expecting that we would have the opportunity to meet face to face, since the global COVID-19 pandemic was still wreaking havoc when we took office, however, again, determination led to the Council having their first face to face meeting since October 2019 on May 28th & 29th, 2022. We were very privileged to have the President of AMT (Now Immediate Past President) Mr. Christopher Seay, who is also CASMET's AMT Liaison. There were five outstanding AMT leaders with us, at that meeting. We really appreciate AMT's unwavering support and look forward to the continued partnership. We were also blessed to have attended the AMT National Meeting July 18-22nd, 2022 where CASMET had over 11 attendees with 8 delegates. CASMET was again on the Honor Roll and 5 CASMET members received varying awards. We looked forward to the Magnolia Educational Treasure, September 30-October 2nd, 2022, where we would have held our second Regional Council Meeting. This was prevented due to inclement hurricane conditions and subsequently it was held in Paradise Island, Bahamas, October 29th to 30th.

We have listened to our members. Of course, although we are one Caribbean, we are a diverse set of people with varying professional needs. The strategic plan for 2021-2023 has been enacted. As we embark actions to achieve the goals strategized, we crave the support of everyone. A major plan for this biennium is to mobilize and enact the long envisioned CASMET regional certification examination. We strive to increase membership, to be more visible, provide more continuing educational opportunities and communicate more with our members.

We can only achieve more if we work together and look forward to a great biennium.

Blessings.

Marcia Robinson-Walters

CASMET President



Greetings from the CASMET Liaison



Greetings Caribbean Brothers,
Sisters, Friends and
Colleagues,

Who would have thought when
we left Port of Spain, Trinidad
and Tobago in October 2019

that it would be more than three years before we could shake hands or hug each other? This has been an awesome journey for all of us. The most disparaging issue is that COVID, our reason for separation, still looms large. What is so positive is the stability, resiliency, and strength of AMT and CASMET. There were so many changes since the last in-person meeting. CASMET has a new council lead by Marcia Robinson-Walters. She and her council are being creative to make sure lines of communications are open and information is getting to members. Christopher Damon, the long-time Executive Director of AMT, retired. He was replaced by Kathy Cilia. She and her staff are working hard to update many processes and procedures for AMT.

I know we had our fill of Zoom and Go To Meeting meetings but those platforms allowed us to maintain an active status. It was fantastic the conversions, from in-person to virtual, now to hybrid, that took place. When Monkey Pox came on the scene, CASMET did a webinar to inform the members of this new virus. Also, various countries have offered continuing education sessions via Zoom or Go to Meeting. For these reasons, CASMET is a leader in the region.

I really want to commend the council for their diligence during these most difficult times. It shows the tenacity of the leadership. I am sure, at this point, many are looking forward to the 2023 BGM in Barbados. Jamaica was the first BGM that

I attended. It was at the end of another catastrophic event. However, CASMET pressed through. Although this event was longer than the previous one, it was just a test. CASMET passed the test then and CASMET will pass this test.

Regards,

Chris Seay, MT (AMT)

Immediate Past President, American Medical
Technologists
CASMET Liaison

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." —
Colin Powell

Greetings from the AMT Southern District Councillor



Greetings CASMET
Members,

What a great summer we have had as we were able to have an in-person meeting in Miami for the RCM and then again in Scottsdale, AZ for the Annual Meeting! Virtual meetings are certainly necessary sometimes, but I really enjoy seeing everyone come together!

It is awesome watching the CASMET members work together to grow the organization. As your AMT Southern District Councillor, I am honored to be affiliated with the CASMET organization. Please be aware that I am here to guide and inform your leadership regarding AMT matters. I appreciate each member of CASMET and am here to help.

2023 will be a big year for CASMET with the Biennial Meeting in Barbados. I am looking forward to this meeting as it will be my first in person BGM. I know that it is being planned with educational opportunities for attendees! 2023



AMT Annual Meeting will be held in my home state of Virginia. I look forward to seeing CASMET members at Norfolk Waterside Marriott, Norfolk, VA, July 24-28, 2023 for this meeting.

I pray each of you will stay safe as COVID and now Monkey Pox are still a plague for many people. I also pray that the Hurricane season will pass and with no major occurrences this year for my many CASMET friends and colleagues.

Hope to see you at the Magnolia Educational Treasurers Sept 30-Oct 2, 2022, in Louisville, KY.

Warm Regards,

Anna

AMT is the choice for allied health professional certification

**Anna Catron, MT(AMT), HEW
Southern District Councillor
Vice-President, VASSAMT**
acatron59@gmail.com
276-233-4400 (c)



Greetings from the AMT Executive Councillor



Greetings,

What a blessing it was to see many of you in-person at the AMT Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. It did my heart good to

see folks in person, converse, and break bread together and not on a tiny little square on my computer screen.

First, I would like to say how proud I am of all the award winners this year. CASMET had many

CASMET Newsletter February 2023

members take home AMT national awards. They have worked hard for CASMET and AMT and are so deserving of these awards. Marcia Robinson Walters Distinguished Achievement, Lynette Saunders Pillar Award, Richard Singh 3rd Place Journal, and Grant Lambert Exceptional Merit received their awards in Scottsdale, Arizona this past July. I sure hope to see many more CASMET members represent the Caribbean at next year's meeting being held in Norfolk, Virginia. Congratulations to all.

The Magnolia Educational Treasures meeting will be held in about four short weeks at the Holiday Inn Louisville East, Louisville, Kentucky. This will be another opportunity to network with your colleagues and learn new ideas and techniques. CASMET will hold their second Regional Council Meeting of this biennium in Louisville as well.

I hope you have saved the dates for the CASMET Biennial General Meeting for next year in Barbados. I know the planning committee is working very hard to bring you outstanding presentations from physicians and highly educated professionals that are the very best in their field. Come join us next fall, 2023 in Barbados!! You will be glad you did.

In closing, I hope to see many of you in a few short weeks in Louisville, Kentucky at the Magnolia Educational Treasures meeting. Don't forget to mark those calendars for AMT's annual meeting in Norfolk, Virginia July 24-28, 2023.

Sincerely,

Kaye Tschop, MT (AMT), CLT (HHS)
Executive Councillor
K9kid@bellsouth.net
615-424-0550



THE CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS (CASMET)

CASMET Brief History

Please allow us to give you a brief history of CASMET. The Caribbean Association of Medical Technologists (formerly the Society of Medical Technologists, W. I.) was founded at the Mona campus of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica in 1954. Subsequently Branches were established in The Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, Grenada, Curacao and Suriname. In territories where there are no Branches, members are assigned to a neighbouring Branch.

There are members of CASMET throughout the twenty three nations of the Caribbean. The membership of CASMET is inclusive of Clinical Laboratory Professionals, such as Medical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians, Phlebotomists, other laboratory scientists and support staff, as well as students.

In 1989, CASMET became an affiliate of the American Medical Technologists (AMT), due to the perceived benefits to be derived as an associate of an internationally recognized organization.

Our present aims and objectives include the following:

- To promote the development of professionalism among Clinical Laboratory Professionals within the Caribbean.
- To function as a collaborative and advisory body to respective governments and teaching institutions.
- To provide opportunities for Continuing Education.
- To promote the ISO 15189:2007 standard.
- To encourage the certification and/ or registration of all practising Clinical Laboratory Professionals.
- To encourage members to participate in scientific meetings.
- To promote individual research in areas of Medical Laboratory Technology.

As a member of CASMET some of the benefits which may be obtained, include:

- Access to networking opportunities among the CASMET membership.
- Active participation in the growth, development and regulation of CASMET.
- Earning continuing education credits, through attendance of the Biennial General Meeting and Scientific Symposium as well as other related seminars or workshops.
- AMT membership at half cost.

CASMET Mission Statement

To be recognized as the Caribbean Association for medical laboratory professionals dedicated to meeting the needs and requirements of its members and clients, providing dynamic visionary leadership, advocacy at the highest level, educational development and support for regulatory mechanisms encouraging members to aspire to the highest standards of professional conduct, thereby promoting delivery of quality health

CASMET Vision Statement

Laboratory Professionals partnering to provide Quality Healthcare
CORE VALUES - Excellence, Quality, Integrity, and Professionalism (EQIP) care.

CASMET AIMS

- Develop professionalism among Medical Laboratory Professionals within their countries
- Act as a collaborator and an advisory body to their respective governments and institutions
- Provide continuing education opportunities
- Maintain international standards in Quality Control and safety
- Uphold the ethics of the profession
- Encourage certification and registration of all practicing medical laboratory professionals
- Promote research and participation in scientific meetings

Code of Ethics

On entering at this time into the practice of Medical Technology, I accept with full realization of its implication, the responsibility associated with my duties.

I am aware that since the Physician or Surgeon relies upon my work in the diagnosis and treatment of disease, even an apparent trivial error may affect seriously the health or even the life of a patient. Every procedure, therefore, must be carried out with thoughtfulness and accuracy.

Knowing these things I recognize that my integrity and that of my profession must be pledged to the absolute reliability of my work. I am aware of the need for co-operation and friendly understanding between my fellow workers and myself and for the patience, humanity and tact which must be exercised toward the patient who by reason of his illness is particularly needful of my skill and kindness.

I realize that the knowledge obtained concerning persons in the course of my work is privileged and confidential and that since the Physician or Surgeon has the ultimate responsibility in diagnosis and treatment, my results may be made known only to him or another having duly constituted authority. To these principles I hereby subscribe, promising to conduct myself at all times in a manner appropriate to the dignity of my profession



The Caribbean Association of Medical Technologists

For Laboratory Professionals

Affiliate of

American Medical Technologists



Scientific Symposium & Biennial General Meeting



October 22-26, 2023

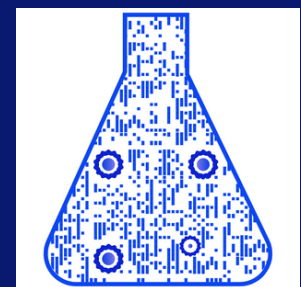
Venue:

Hilton Barbados Resort

"Future Proofing the
Laboratory:

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE
SYSTEMS FOR LABORATORY
EFFICIENCY"

REGISTER NOW



Reserve your room



Hosted by: The Barbados Association of Medical Technologists


www.casmet.net




casmet53@gmail.com



MEET

 **PRESIDENT**, Marcia Robinson-Walters, MBA, MPH, MLS

 **VICE-PRESIDENT**, Harry Narine, MLS/ RPT

 **PRESIDENT ELECT**, Kameaka Duncan-Pottinger MLS

 **SECRETARY**, Juann Ward MPhil, MLS, RPT, AHI

 **ASSISTANT SECRETARY**, Karlene Mogg MLS

YOUR


 **TREASURER**, Khalil Lucky, MLS/RPT

 **ASSISTANT TREASURER**, Richard Singh MLS, RPT

 **PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER**, Fabien Maxwell MLS

 **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**, Bonaventia Culmer, MLS

 **COUNCIL MEMBER**, Sheldon Simson MLS

 **COUNCIL MEMBER**, Nellian Hutton-Rose MLS

 **COUNCIL MEMBER**, Udra Sookal-Goolsair, MLS/RPT

 **COUNCIL MEMBER**, Johan Drayton MLS

 **COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE ST. LUCIA**, Dale Louis, MT

 **COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE ST. KITTS&NEVIS**, Jasmin Hanley, MLS

 **COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE GRENADA**, Grant Lambert, MLS/RPT/AHI

 **COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE ST. MAARTEN**, Gabriel Odon, MLS

 **COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE GUYANA**, Nolan Hawke, MLS

 **COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE BELIZE**, Magnolia Pott, MLS

REGIONAL

COUNCIL

MEMBERS

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

CASMET Newsletter February 2023

The CASMET 1st Regional Council Meeting for this Biennium was held at the Sheraton Miami Airport Hotel and Executive meeting Center May 27th to 30th 2022. The meeting was conducted face to face with the opportunity to have members join us virtually who could not be present, thus creating a successful hybrid event. We had the distinct pleasure of having AMT Executive Director, Ms. Kathy Cilia join us at this meeting. Please see highlights below:



From left: CASMET President Ms. Marcia Robinson Walters, AMT Executive Director Ms. Kathy Cilia, CASMET Secretary Ms. Juann Ward and AMT/CASMET Liaison Mr. Chris Seay.



Regional Council Members From left: Council Member Sheldon Simson, Country Rep. Mr. Dale Louis, Council Member Ms. Udra Sookal-Goolsair, Asst. Treasurer Mr. Richard Singh, Treasurer Mr. Khalil Lucky, and Immediate Past President Ms. Bonaventia Culmer.



Having a light moment CASMET Vice-President Mr. Harry Narine and Belize Country Rep. Mr. Elwin Rodriguez.



Photo Credits: Courtesy Our very much-loved Executive Councillor Ms. Kaye Tschop.

RCM May 2022

Collective Memoir!

First Row from left:
Southern District Councillor Ms. Anna Catron, Ms. Juann Ward, Mr. Walter Parson, Ms. Udra Sookal-Goolsair, Ms. Kathy Cilia, Ms. Marcia Robinson Walters.
Second Row from left:
Mr. Harry Narine, Ms. Bonaventia Culmer, Mr. Richard Singh, Mr. Dale Louis, Mr. Khalil Lucky, Mr. Chris Seay and Mr. Sheldon Simson.

The 2nd RCM was held at the Warwick Hotel, Paradise Island, Bahamas on October 29th to 30th 2022. The Bahamas Association of Medical Technologists graciously welcomed Regional Council members with a social night that started with a prayer and ended with a casual night of getting to know fellow medical laboratory personnel and sharing the aspirations of CASMET. The meeting was power packed with a lot of healthy discussions and much deliberations. Strategic planning for the website and plans for BGM 2023 were exciting topics that would bear fruit in the near future. Please see some highlights of the meeting:

The Meeting Room! From Left: AMT Ambassador Mr. Walter Parson, St. Lucia Country Rep. Mr. Dale Louis, St. Marten Country Rep. Mr. Gabriel Odon, Council Member Ms. Udra Sookal-Goolsair, Vice-President Mr. Harry Narine, President Ms. Marcia Robinson-Walters, Secretary Ms. Juann Ward, Bahamas Branch Chair Ms. Bernice Mc Clain, Assistant Treasurer Mr. Richard Singh, AMT Liaison Mr. Chris Seay and Assistant Secretary Ms. Karlene Mogg. Photo Credit: Ms. Kaye Tschop





RCM attendees getting their fill of Junkanoo!



Above: Mr. Harry Narine shares a light moment with Ms. Bonaventia Culmer



Right: Members of the contingent that visited the Princess Margaret's Hospital: Mr. Chris Seay, Ms. Juann Ward, Ms. Karen Ingraham Denise, Ms. Karlene Mogg and Mr. Gabriel Odon.



Enjoying more of the Princess Margaret Hospital visit



CASMET President Ms. Marcia Robinson Walters having a motivational talk with fellow Medical Laboratory personnel at the Princess Margaret Hospital Laboratory.

REFERENCES:

1. Hawksbill sea turtle Barbados, cited on: <https://twitter.com/FlightCentreCa/status/1501876787952955393/photo/3>
2. **Photo Credits:** Special Thanks to Ms. Kaye Tschop and the Bahamas Association of Medical Technologists for some of the beautiful picture content displayed. All other pictures used were provided by the Editor.
3. **Introduction Picture, Cited on:** <https://quotement.com/turtle-quotes/>

Thank You for Reading



This Newsletter is a production of the Public Relations Committee of the Caribbean Association of Medical Technologists (CASMET) an affiliate of the American Medical Technologists (AMT)

www.casmet.net

All rights reserved February 2023