President’s Message

Goodbye 2017: Reflecting upon IAHCSMM’s Ongoing Success Story

I am sure many of you may also be asking this same question: where did 2017 go? The years seem to pass more quickly the older we get and that’s surely due to our increasingly busy lifestyles. As we approach the holiday season, our lives tend to get even busier and before we know it, the new year is upon us. It is my wish that we all take the time to enjoy life and the holidays, and make the most of every day in both our personal and professional lives. As Central Service (CS) technicians, we also need to make the most of every day on the job and always keep in mind that our patients will benefit from the hard work and caring attitudes that we deliver each and every day.

Much like each CS professional is committed to quality service for their customers, patients and facility, IAHCSMM, too, is dedicated to quality and meeting the ongoing needs of its membership. As your full-service association, IAHCSMM works hard to provide the best service and offerings to its members, while strengthening the CS community as a whole through education, advocacy, publications and service. Here is a brief recap of some of IAHCSMM’s key successes that were achieved throughout this past year.

Education – IAHCSMM made tremendous strides with its educational efforts in 2017. Aside another terrific lineup of speakers and valuable educational information presented at our Annual Conference & Expo in Nashville, Tenn., our education team also delivered the first edition of the new Endoscope Reprocessing boxed course. This was a coordinated effort that included the assistance of many experts in the field from both our membership and vendor communities. I want to personally thank everyone who assisted in the development of this valuable resource. I encourage all CRCST professionals and all endoscope reprocessing professionals to use these materials to improve upon their current skills.

We also added several key members to our education department this year. The skill sets and expertise added by Susan Klacik, Jon Wood and Jason Larson were a welcomed addition for our Education Director and Education Specialist Natalie Lind and Patti Koncur. This expanded team is already seeing our Education department soar to new heights and I’ll be keeping you informed of some other exciting enhancements and additions as they present themselves in the coming months.

Advocacy – We want to again congratulate the state of Tennessee for passing legislation that requires the certification of new CS technicians. Although IAHCSMM did not drive this initial legislative process, IAHCSMM did introduce legislation to amend the law. Currently, we have pending legislation in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. There is a tremendous amount of work and effort that goes into getting legislation passed. Massachusetts came very close to passing legislation and was awaiting a final vote in the state House; however, the bill did not pass.
before the end of the legislative session. Even though there is significant planning involved in our legislative efforts, we are still at the mercy of legislative process, which is tedious and quite complex at times. Regardless, we have gained significant traction and are hopeful for more success in 2018 and beyond.

**Publications and Services** – Through our publications, *Communiqué* and *Central Source*, we continue to provide IAHCSMM members with the latest and greatest information impacting the profession – from products and services to invaluable educational material. I encourage all of you to faithfully read these publications, as they are chock full of valuable information that will help you perform your daily duties more safely and effectively, an in accordance with the latest standards and best practices. Many of our industry leaders and experts take time to contribute to these publications and provide you with the most up-to-date information, and we are grateful for their commitment to helping improve the CS profession.

A note about IAHCSMM's hardworking staff: Many people may not realize the behind-the-scenes efforts provided by our exceptional staff members. We are truly fortunate to have such a devoted and caring team of professionals at our home office in Chicago and offsite. Each IAHCSMM staff member does an exceptional job of keeping our Association running optimally and successfully to meet the needs of our growing membership. IAHCSMM simply would not be the success it is today without them.

**Executive Board** – Last, but certainly not least, I cannot express enough gratitude to the diverse team of professionals that comprises the IAHCSMM Executive Board and Board of Directors. Our latest election provided us with not only new faces, but also a fresh set of ideas and knowledge base. The Executive Board faced some challenges this past year and each board member performed exceptionally to keep the membership informed and stay focused on setting Association goals and expectations. Significant work is currently underway to update IAHCSMM’s Bylaws and Policy and Procedure Manual. As an IAHCSMM member, you will have the opportunity to vote on these proposed changes in the upcoming year, so please stay involved and be sure to cast your vote.

It’s my hope that this information provides a glimpse into the many ongoing efforts taking place to better serve our members, the Association and the profession. I also want to thank each and every member for their ongoing efforts this past year to prevent infections, deliver exceptional customer service and keep patients safe.

Wishing you all a memorable, healthy and safe holiday season, and some valuable time spent reflecting upon your critically important role in patient care!

Steven J. Adams, RN, BA, CRCST, CHL

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**BEING SOCIAL HAS ITS PERKS**

**Busy CS professionals are always on the move... and IAHCSMM can be with them every step of the way**

From our content-rich website to our timely and informative Facebook and Twitter updates – not to mention, our educational membership publications, *Communiqué* and *Central Source* - IAHCSMM's support and knowledge-building materials are just a click or page-turn away!