

## A Call for Case Studies

Members are encouraged to submit case studies for publication in *Advocate*. **Fifty dollars will be paid for each published study.** Should members have comments or questions regarding the Case Study after publication, the author(s) should be prepared to answer these.

### Introduction: Suggested Format for Setting up a "Case Study"

There are three underlying assumptions;

- 1) there is no standard format.
- 2) there is seldom only one unequivocal answer to each of the questions.
- 3) whenever possible, the case study should be presented in a multidisciplinary manner, e.g. involving results from as many different laboratory areas as possible. Also, the results from other diagnostic areas such as Diagnostic Imaging and Respiratory should be included. If necessary, the OSMT office can contact members to help provide additional resource material.

However, the following format, if used consistently, may help the candidate. The answers to most, if not all of the questions, should be contained in the recommended texts. Since there is no allotment of marks nor is there any pass/fail grade assigned, it is not necessary to cite an exact source of information for each "correct answer".

### CASE STUDY

1. Title of the Case Study  
This should give a clue to the nature of the case.
2. Case History  
This should include the circumstances which lead to the patient seeking help and signs and/or symptoms which were noted. Past-related medical history (directly and/or indirectly related to the current situation), including results of previous tests if known. Note of medications which are being used, etc.
3. Treatment and diagnostic tests, including lab tests which were ordered.  
These would be the initial tests, not including follow-up testing which may be ordered later.
4. Results of diagnostic tests  
Not all of the results may be available at time of review. If so, the later

ones could be mentioned under "follow-up" at the end of the case study.

### Questions

These may cover items 1 through 3, as well as 4 above.

5. Discussion/Answers to questions

Using the "Discussion" approach, the "answers" may be presented in a narrative form. This is a more interesting format than the alternative whereby the "answers" are listed using the same number sequence used in the question section. However, the case study can include both approaches, e.g. the discussion part can give the answers in a general, narrative way and, in addition, there could be a point-by-point "answer" section. As noted in the introductory comments, scenarios needing to cite exact references should be avoided. Technologists are in the real world, not in an undergraduate school of a medical technology training program.

Consideration should be given to highlighting any questions which are especially important, i.e. where the "answer" may be critical. Using "bold type" would be one way.

6. References

These should be texts which are usually available in any adequately stocked laboratory library. They should contain all or most of the answers to the "laboratory questions".

7. Follow-Up

This is an optional section which would contain information not available at the time of the original case presentation.

**Case studies should be no more than 500 – 700 words in length.**

Submitted by Editorial Committee for publication in *Advocate*