

Meet the Laboratorian - Rosa Crook

Many microbiologists in the state know Rosa Crook, the Microbiology Supervisor at BryanLGH in Lincoln. For those of you who have not met her, we were fortunate to obtain the following interview of this highly regarded medical technologist.

What got you interested in pursuing a career in laboratory science?

When I started college I knew I wanted to go into the medical field. Originally I had considered hospital pharmacy or nursing and knew very little about medical technology. At Kearney State College I learned about the field and decided that was what I really wanted to do.

Where did you attend medical technology school?

I attended Kearney State Teacher's College before it was part of the University System. From there I went to Lincoln General Hospital and took my year internship there.

How long have you worked in your present location?

I have worked as a medical technologist since 1960. Since my husband's career was that of an Air Force officer, I worked in numerous laboratories before returning to Lincoln. I worked in laboratories from Bangor, Maine to Vancouver, Washington and from North Bay Ontario, Canada to Gulfport, Mississippi primarily as a generalist or in chemistry.

My husband and I returned to Lincoln 31 years ago and I started working in microbiology at Lincoln General Hospital. During that time we were Pathology Medical Services, Nichols Institute, Corning Clinical Laboratories, and Quest Diagnostic Laboratories. In 2002 our Microbiology transitioned to BryanLGH hospital as part of their laboratory.

What is the biggest challenge you face in your job today?

My biggest challenge has been trying to keep current with different antibiotics that are now available and name changes that have occurred with different organisms. It has also been challenging to keep up with all of the new technological advances in laboratory medicine. These are challenges but are also what make microbiology so interesting.

What is your advice to a first-year medical technologist?

Since I started in this profession over forty years ago there is very little that hasn't changed. Automation and computerization have made it possible to do large amounts of work with fewer techs, which is necessary when technical personnel are not plentiful and turn-around-time is so critical for patient care, both personally and economically.

What do you like most about your job?

The constant variety in day to day testing, looking for the unusual, and the satisfaction of providing rapid turn around time in the identification of unusual organisms.

