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March 04, 2009

Dear Fellow Laboratorians:

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Karen Stiles, MT (ASCP) SM, has accepted the position of State Training Coordinator (STC) for laboratorians at the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory (NPHL). Ms. Stiles comes to us from Gretna, Nebraska and has 20-plus years of experience as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist in microbiology, most recently at the Alegant Health System. She previously was an assistant laboratory manager and an instructor in the field of microbiology.

NPHL's plans for Karen include assuming the laboratory outreach and training role that Josh Rowland previously held. Josh has left big shoes to fill having served in that role since 2003. He built many strong ties across the state, and Karen is eager to meet everyone and continue on with these strong relationships.

Training and educational emphasis will continue to be placed on biothreat agents, naturally occurring pathogens, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Level-3 chemical terrorism preparation. Besides these, training courses conducted by Karen in the future will include other topics in laboratory testing including antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

Karen looks forward to meeting each of you and hopes to be able to travel to each of your facilities for a face to face meeting. Karen will be present at many of the regional meetings and symposiums that will take place across the state this spring and summer. In the near future Karen will be sending each of you a questionnaire to collect your comments and recommendations for the laboratory's training and education needs.

Until then you may call or email Karen at 402-559-9444, kstiles@unmc.edu or Tony Sambol at 402-559-3032, asambol@unmc.edu with any questions or training concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Hinrichs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Steven H. Hinrichs, M.D.
Director, Nebraska Public Health Laboratory