



TEL: 021-4194857

FAX: 021-212566

Administration Office  
501 Thibault House  
Hans Strijdom Avenue  
Foreshore  
CAPETOWN  
8001

27 February 1992

CODESA (W/group 3)  
World Trade Centre  
Kempton Park

Dear Sir

In response to the request by CODESA for submissions from interested parties, the following is presented for consideration:

1. This Society is concerned with the maintenance of standards in medical laboratory services and with the ethical conduct of those in this profession (See attached mission statement). As the officially recognised voice of medical technology in this country we strongly recommend that universally acceptable codes of professional conduct be adopted for the protection of the community, which is entitled to expect a certain, fixed standard of behaviour and integrity from the profession. Associated with this should be appropriate disciplinary measures.
2. The Society fully endorses the concept of medical laboratory accreditation and is presently involved in the process of developing a national system. It recommends that all endeavour in this respect be maintained and encouraged.
3. We support moves to make health care more accessible and more affordable and believe medical technologists have an important role to play in furthering this goal. A document briefly outlining the potential contribution the profession could make in the sphere of primary health care is attached.
4. Your attention is drawn to the fact that medical technologists may now practice independently and are therefore in a strong position to increase the extent of medical laboratory services rendered to the community.
5. In the re-organisation and structuring of health services it is vital that a health care team approach be encouraged and that adequate consultation takes place with those actively engaged in the various health professions and with the community to ensure that new structures are both efficient and relevant.



Die Vereniging van Geneeskundige  
Laboratorium Tegnoloë van  
Suid-Afrika



The Society of Medical  
Laboratory Technologists of  
South Africa

The Society expresses its continued support for the aims of CODESA and may be contacted at the above address for further information or assistance.

SIGNED *S. McCallum*,  
(Ms) S. McCallum  
VICE-PRESIDENT, SMLTSA





**SOCIETY OF MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS OF S.A.**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Society of M.L.T. of S.A. is dedicated to the promotion of the aims and ideals of medical laboratory science, appropriate to the interests of the community it serves, within a comprehensive unitary health service. It is committed to:

1. The paramount goal of providing care and service to the patient, above all other considerations.
2. The entrenchment of a professionally determined code of ethical conduct for all practitioners of medical technology.
3. Maintaining and improving the standard of medical laboratory practice.
4. Needs related research to ensure that medical laboratory practice will be dynamic, effective and relevant.
5. Promoting the widest possible application and utilisation of medical laboratory technology in health matters affecting both persons and their environment, for the greatest benefit of all South Africans.
6. Promoting continuing professional development.
7. Implementation of and assistance with national accreditation systems for both personnel and laboratories.
8. An active role in the selection, education and training of appropriate personnel.
9. Liaison and communication with all groups concerned with, and responsible for, health care.
10. Maintaining an organised, representative body and infrastructure capable of acting and negotiating on all matters related to medical technology, and on behalf of medical technologists.



4. PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

- 4.1 Provision of educational material, lecturers.
- 4.2 Participation in workshops, seminars, school and clinic outreach programmes.
- 4.3 Assistance with training of community health workers.

5. TRAINING OF SUITABLE PERSONNEL FOR PROVISION OF PATHOLOGY LABORATORY SERVICES

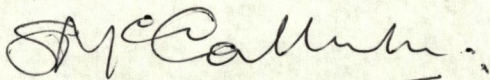
- 5.1 Technicians.
- 5.2 Technologists.

6. CONTRACT WORK

- 6.1 Provision of medical laboratory services on a contractual basis by private individuals, long term or short term.

7. ADVISORY

- 7.1 Advice on the identification and control of disease.
- 7.2 Advice on provision of appropriate technology.
- 7.3 Co-operation with other health workers.



SIGNED: S.M. McCALLUM  
VICE PRESIDENT.





### THE ROLE OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

The following areas of health care were identified as providing scope for the utilisation of medical technologists.

#### 1. PROVISION OF SAFE WATER

- 1.1 Detection of faecal contamination.
- 1.2 Monitoring of water status.
- 1.3 Identifying sources of contamination.

#### 2. MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

- 2.1 Ante-natal
  - Blood grouping.
  - Screening for STD.
  - Diabetes screening and monitoring.
  - Nutritional status.
  - Identification of other clinically significant diseases eg. viral (HIV, HPV, HSV).
- 2.2 Post-natal
  - Haemolytic disease of the newborn.
  - Other diagnostic testing as required.
- 2.3 Family Planning
  - STD screening.
  - Pregnancy testing.
  - Screening for Ca cervix.

#### 3. PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ENDEMIC DISEASE.

- 3.1 TB identification and patient monitoring.
- 3.2 Identification and monitoring of diarrhoeal diseases and parasitic infestation eg. malaria, bilharzia, helminths, amoebae.
- 3.3 Carrier identification eg. typhoid, cholera.
- 3.4 AIDS screening