



26 May 2010

Dear Colleagues, Faculty and Former Students,

It seems incredible that we are half-way through our third year of providing training at the Aseptic Training Institute, located at the Johnston Community College Work Force Center in Clayton, NC. Without many of your help, contributions and participation, we would not be where we are today. I talk to or email many of you from time-to-time, but with others, it has been a while since I have been able to touch bases with you. Reflecting back on the last three years, I thought you might be interested in hearing where we are today; and where we hope to be in the next several years.

As many of you know, when we offered our first classes, we were sharing space with the Caterpillar Company. Unfortunately, due to the economy, they are no longer using the Work Force Center for training. That pretty much freed up the room housing the cleanroom, and we now have use of the entire space. We installed our pass-through autoclave and dry heat oven in 2008. From generous donations from Veltek and PMS we have state-of-the-science viable and non-viable particle counting equipment. Aramark continues to supply our cleanroom gowns and scrubs. We have use of a Vitek Compact microbial identification system supplied by bioMerieux. Many smaller pieces of equipment and materials have been supplied to us from General Econopak, Inc., Millipore, Fisher Scientific, VWR, MSP Corporation, BD Diagnostics and Filtration Technology. We worked out the details this week to receive a lyophilizer from Talecris and it should be installed into the wall of our cleanroom in the next month or so. Then, we will be able to provide hands-on lyo training, including cycle development studies.

We are developing our first genuine certification program for performing and evaluating airflow studies. A Certification Working Team has been formed to develop not only training, but also written and practical examinations to evaluate the competency of the examinee. We hope to be able to make that offering next year.

As you know, we were the pioneers in developing our hands-on training approach that includes explaining the discipline, demonstrating the task, providing the opportunity for experiencing the process, requiring an evaluation of the activity and an understanding **why** the discipline is critical to aseptic processing and microbiological control. As always, our faculty is what distinguishes ATI from the many other training organizations available. We continue to provide a variety of faculty members with

years of experience in their chosen disciplines. We also want to thank the many companies that have supported us by sending students to our initial classes, especially Talecris, Novo Nordisk and Bausch and Lomb that supported us in the early years, as well as now.

As a reminder, one of our most popular one-week courses from last year, "Microbiology for the Non-Microbiologist," is being offered June 21-25. It was received very well by all of the students last year, but is exceptionally well-suited to engineers and compliance people without Microbiology training. We look not only at basic microbiological principles, but also focus on up-stream processing, laminar flow hoods and biosafety cabinets. Last year we developed and performed experiments to evaluate how cleanroom gowns provide a microbial barrier, even though they are not a microbial retentive filter, and a student question, "Can you sterilize a batch record using a Microwave Oven." Not only was the course educational, but it was also fun. There was no aseptic gowning required. Pass this letter along to your colleagues and they will receive a 10% discount on this course. Just have your colleagues attach it to their registration form found at www.aseptictraining.com. Or have them call Grace at **949-716-8414**.

Thanks, again, for all of your support. I look forward to talking with you or seeing you soon.

Have a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend.

Best regards,

John M. Lindsay, Executive Director