Biographical Feature

Lynne S. Garcia, M.S., F(AAM)

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Comments provided by Mike Saubolle, medical director of the Infectious Diseases Division, Laboratory Sciences of Arizona, and clinical associate professor at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in Tucson, set the stage for this biographical feature on Lynne S. Garcia, M.S., F(AAM), and capture the spirit of Lynne. “She has always been the smartest, hardest working, most gracious lady, who always wanted to share her knowledge with others. In all the years that I have known her, I personally have never seen Lynne mad, frustrated, or short tempered, even under adverse conditions where at least frustration should have shown through. Instead she has always had a calm, soothing demeanor as if to say to her pupil, ‘I understand you do not understand, but you will if you let yourself.’” By virtue of her limitless energy and commitment to clinical microbiology, there are very few, if any, clinical microbiologists who have not at least heard of Lynne Garcia; many have consulted with or been educated, advised, or mentored by this amazing person.

Although Lynne’s travels and professional activities have taken her around the nation and the world, she was rooted in the soil of the west coast, namely, California; her home remains there to this day. She received her A.B. degree in zoology from Pomona College in Claremont, CA, and a year later earned her MT (ASCP) degree from St. John’s Hospital in Santa Monica, CA. Subsequently, in 1983, she received a master

of science degree in health care administration from the University of La Verne, La Verne, CA. After receiving her MT (ASCP) certification, Lynne initially began her career in medical technology in blood banking. Luckily for clinical microbiology, she began working in clinical microbiology in various positions as a supervisor. Fortunately for the discipline, these positions allowed her to delve into diagnostic clinical parasitology with respect to not only diagnostics but research and teaching of this topic as well. In 1979, Lynne moved to Los Angeles, CA, and assumed the position of supervisor of the clinical laboratory's parasitology laboratory. Subsequently, she became the laboratory manager for the clinical microbiology laboratory at the University of California, Los Angeles, a position she held for 20 years, as well as continuing as supervisor for parasitology. Since 1999, Lynne has served as director of LSG and Associates in Santa Monica, CA, a private consulting business for medical parasitology and health care management; she also serves as a consultant in these same areas.

In recognition for her amazing contributions in our field, Lynne has received numerous awards. Because of her contributions in clinical microbiology, in particular her vast knowledge and experience in diagnostic parasitology, Lynne was elected a fellow in the American Academy of Microbiology. However, her honors and awards do not end with that prestigious title. Lynne Garcia was the recipient of the American Society for Microbiology's 2009 bioMérieux Sonnenwirth Award for Leadership in Clinical Microbiology, and she has received other awards, including the award for American Society for Medical Technology Microbiologist of the Year and, in 2007, the William N. Reich Outstanding Achievement Award and the Southwestern Association for Clinical Microbiology's Professional Achievement Award, to name a few!

How does one describe the contributions of Lynne Garcia to our field? As Davise Larone, Ph.D., D(ABMM), F(AAM), professor emerita of clinical pathology and laboratory medicine, microbiology, and immunology, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY, states "We are all immensely indebted to Lynne for her numerous outstandingly useful publications, workshops, and lectures, which clinical microbiologists have relied upon for many years. Whether it's parasitology or clinical laboratory management, Lynne is the one we turn to." To summarize the more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, abstracts, check samples, and newsletters authored by Lynne is well beyond the scope of this biographical feature. Nevertheless, these diverse publications have had a major impact on those in the field. As summarized by Fred Rachford, Ph.D., senior director of the proficiency program, Meridian Bioscience, Inc., Cincinnati, OH, "Her contributions are recognized throughout the field, and her expertise is further shared within the diagnostic community in consultation with diagnostic product designers, developers, and manufacturers. Lynne also has been active in the guidance and oversight of clinical laboratory participation in various proficiency testing programs, with her efforts directed toward the establishment and maintenance of proficiency within the clinical laboratory. Her contributions have been many and are devoted toward the sharing of information with others and the enhancement of clinical diagnostic processes within laboratory medicine." In addition to these contributions, Lynne authored the *Practical Guide to Diagnostic Parasitology*, published in 2007 by ASM Press, and 2016 witnessed the publication by ASM Press of the 6th edition of Lynne's *Diagnostic Parasitology* (now more than 1,000 pages), truly a go-to reference for so many clinical microbiologists.

In addition to these achievements, Lynne Garcia has contributed numerous hours serving on the editorial boards for *Clinical Microbiology Reviews* and *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*. She has served ASM committees, including the President's Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Clinical Microbiology, the Committee on Governance, the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Professional Affairs, the Book Review Committee, the Cumitech Editorial Board, and the Centennial Heritage Committee, and was an elected member of the Council Policy Committee (governing body) and a member of the Canada Blue Ribbon Committee on Bloodborne Parasitic Diseases. And finally, she has fulfilled offices or membership in eight different societies, including as past or present officer or president of the Los Angeles chapter of CLMA, the Southern California

branch of ASM, and the Southern California branch of the American Society of Parasitologists.

Lynne Garcia has never lost the perspective she gained from her first beginnings as a laboratory technologist. Her dedication to laboratory technologists is unending, and this dedication is evident in her having presented almost 600 workshops, lectures, and seminars to users in the field. Her approachability, commitment to teaching, and fund of knowledge in parasitology and other aspects of laboratory medicine are held in high regard by so many. Robyn Shimuzu, B.A., CLS (ASCP), writes, "Lynne is an incredibly supportive mentor, always approachable, friendly, and unassuming. Her answers to questions or situations are always constructive and practical. She is recognized as a worldwide authority in clinical parasitology, and her tireless efforts to share her clinical experience and knowledge are expressed through countless workshops and presentations, hundreds of published articles and books, and her service on multiple committees for various national and local microbiology organizations. What is so great about Lynne is that she is so well rounded." That view is supported by Deanna Danielson, system technical specialist in microbiology/parasitology, Infectious Diseases Division, Sonora Quest Laboratories/Laboratory Specialists of Arizona, Banner Health. "In every instance where I have had dealings with Lynne, she has been willing to review whatever slides I send and has given a thorough evaluation of her review. She has never turned down a request for assistance and reviews slides quickly (surprisingly quickly). On a personal level, Lynne has been patient with a multitude of questions from me (she shared her e-mail address long ago) and always takes the time to answer completely and direct me to additional information I may need to fill in any gaps." Marie Pezzlo, MA, MT (ASCP), relates, "I have known Lynne for approximately 4 decades and have had the privilege of working with her on many occasions. Lynne is truly a kind, giving, caring, and sharing individual. We all recognize Lynne as a well-respected clinical microbiologist and outstanding parasitologist with numerous contributions. What has impressed me the most is Lynne's unending dedication to educating bench technologists through her numerous workshop presentations, publications, and personal communications. Despite her busy schedule as an author, editor, and lecturer, she has always been available to anyone who seeks her advice and expertise . . . In addition to Lynne's numerous achievements and awards, she has always been a humble, gracious, warm, and kind person."

On a personal level, I remember my first meeting and working with Lynne Garcia on the editorial board for *Clinical Microbiology Reviews*. I can still feel her presence when she breezed into the meeting room, exuding unending energy, friendliness, openness, and just plain delight in discussing various topics in parasitology for possible review articles! She has not slowed down one iota, and for all who have come to know her, she will always have time for you, no matter what. I admit to having had numerous consultations with Lynne over challenging clinical cases involving parasites; just as she has done for so many others, she was generous with her renowned expertise and always had time for me. Amazing! As Diane Citron, B.S., F (AAM), R.M., Alden Research Laboratory, Culver City, CA, noted, "I first met Lynne Garcia in the '70s when she was working at UCLA and I was working at the Wadsworth VA Medical Center. She came to Wadsworth on a regular basis to present the infectious disease grand rounds with fascinating information on parasitology. I later got to know her better through our involvement with the Southern California branch of ASM, where she eventually was elected president of our group. She was always cheerful, giving, and helping whoever needed help. She presents parasitology workshops to our very enthusiastic group every few years. And she gives great Christmas parties at her home. She is a colleague and a wonderful friend."

Lynne Garcia as a person, as a parasitologist, as a writer, as a mentor, and as a management guru is best summarized by the words of Dre' Linscott, Ph.D., D(ABMM), clinical microbiologist at Ochsner Medical Center, New Orleans, LA. "As a medical technologist early in my career, I attended many parasitology workshops for which she was the presenter and remember how awed I was by her knowledge and practical

approaches for medical parasitology. I also remember how gracious she was to all participants. Later, as a postdoctoral fellow at UCLA working closely with Lynne Garcia, I learned then what a wonderful mentor she was. She encouraged many fellows to write and would recommend us to write various chapters in *Manual of Clinical Microbiology* or *Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook*. Lynne Garcia's books have been a staple in many of our laboratories. She is an incredible writer and a gifted editor. She was a true resource when I was section editor for the *Clinical Laboratory Management* book. To this day, Lynne still reigns as a premier lecturer and resource for parasitology and laboratory management. She is still just as gracious as she was 20 years ago and is truly a gem in the clinical microbiology world ... I love that woman! She's the greatest!"

In closing, the following are comments Lynne provided. "I could not have asked for a better career path filled with a loving family, outstanding mentors, great colleagues, and fascinating students. The teaching and writing commitments have added an extra bonus; every project has brought great fun and enjoyment. Special thanks to all of you who have enriched my life with your friendship and your many contributions to the field. What an incredible group of people; what an exciting future lies ahead for all of us." As I wrote to Lynne in response when she asked if these comments were appropriate, "That works great, Lynne—it is just so you!"

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