Hyperphosphatemia can occur in renal failure, diabetes, endocrinopathies, hypoparathyroidism, increased dietary/pharmacologic intake of phosphates or vitamin D, and immunoproliferative diseases such as multiple myeloma, in which paraproteins interfere with the colorimetric method \( (1, 2) \). Plasma phosphorus is quantified through reaction with ammonium molybdate to form a colored phosphomolybdate complex \( (3) \). The manufacturer of the DxC 800 System (Beckman Coulter) lists nafcillin as an interferant; however, the interference mechanism is unknown \( (4) \). Unlike other known antibiotic interferants, nafcillin is colorless and lacks protein and lipid components. Investigation revealed that the patient’s blood sample had been collected through the same intravenous line that had administered nafcillin. In-house in vitro nafcillin-spiking studies revealed substantial interference only with the DxC 800 instrument.

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**References**


**News & Views**

**The SYCL Toolkit:**

Creating a Program within a Professional Organization for Young Scientists

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The Society for Young Clinical Laboratorians (SYCL) is a program created by the AACC to serve the needs of its younger members. The goal of SYCL is to provide clinical laboratorians early in their professional lives with career-enhancement opportunities that include programs, resources, and advice to enrich their professional development. A smaller group of SYCL members selected by the AACC president forms the Executive SYCL Committee, which is tasked with representing the larger SYCL membership and leading the development and support of the Society’s goals in collaboration with the organization’s leadership. The SYCL program is uniquely supportive of young scien-

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tists (<40 years of age): It not only provides comprehensive resources but also advocates for the development of the AACC’s young scientists who constitute the SYCL membership (approximately 800 members as of 2013).

Whereas the day-to-day activities of SYCL are largely left up to the Committee itself, both the AACC leadership and the SYCL Committee are cognizant of each other’s goals and aim to synchronize efforts. The SYCL Committee also interacts regularly with the AACC scientific divisions, the Van Slyke Foundation, and the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry through various awards, presentations, programs, and educational initiatives.

The SYCL Committee is afforded a budget by the AACC for face-to-face meetings, educational events, awards, and programs. In addition, the full resources of the AACC support staff are available for programs, a prime example being the SYCL360 podcast (http://www.aacc.org/members/sycl/sycl360/). The SYCL Committee also benefits from vendor support for some sponsored educational events, such as the SYCL workshops held at the AACC annual meeting (http://www.aacc.org/members/sycl/Documents/2013_SYCL_Workshop.pdf).

SYCL has yielded a number of benefits for both the AACC and young scientists. Young scientists directly benefit from travel grants, educational and networking opportunities, and recognition by more-senior AACC members and key leaders in the field. The resources to facilitate special events targeted for SYCL members help budding laboratory directors address early career challenges in a supportive and collegial environment that may not otherwise be available. SYCL members, particularly those involved in SYCL activities and committees, gain invaluable leadership experience that will help them in their jobs and future involvement in the AACC. For example, several previous SYCL Committee members have progressed into substantial roles within the AACC, and several current members play leadership roles in the Clinical Chemistry Trainee Council. The AACC gains wider recognition and promotion among young scientists, as well as the opportunity to recruit well-vetted SYCL members for committees and future leadership activities. Clinical chemistry fellowship training programs are now populated with a number of young scientists who were recruited through SYCL initiatives, such as the SYCL Seminar Series. This process ensures continuity and development of highly qualified young scientists to carry the torch of laboratory leadership into the future.

The keys to establishing a successful program for young scientists within a professional organization are (a) support from the larger parent organization, (b) structure and willing volunteers to lead the development of programs and initiatives, (c) effective communication of programs and events, and (d) sustainability through recruitment and succession planning.

Owing to the successful formation and growth of SYCL within the AACC, the SYCL leadership wanted to provide the tools and ideas for other laboratory medicine organizations that might desire to form and adapt their own version of SYCL. This SYCL Toolkit, which is provided in the Data Supplement that accompanies the online version of this New & Views paper at http://www.clinchem.org/content/vol59/issue9, provides an overview of the strategies, tools, and information needed to successfully develop and maintain a similar society within an organization. These tools include identifying and recruiting members, communication strategies, surveillance and identification of member needs, targeted educational opportunities, and recruitment of future trainees to the profession. In addition, the document file discusses practical issues that address human and financial resources.

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