

# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*Major Marybeth E. Luna, USAF*

## **2012 Theme: LEAD, COLLABORATE, and EDUCATE**

Greetings SAFMLS members! I welcome you to SAFMLS' 40th year of existence. During these past 40 years, SAFMLS has taken great strides to innovate our laboratory profession. To help us move forward, it's imperative that we remember where we came from so that we can continue our forward progress. Please take the time to visit our website and click on "History". You will quickly see that SAFMLS' collaborative efforts began early and continue to this day.

This brings me to our 2012 theme, "Lead, Collaborate, and Educate". As laboratory professionals, we must continuously strive to educate ourselves and learn better ways to improve our craft. Learning does not stop with ourselves, however. We have a responsibility to teach our colleagues and combine our common energies into collaborative efforts. Lastly, we must step out of the comfort (and safety) of our research and clinical labs to lead these changes. If we don't, no one will be there to protect us from the political and fiscal forces that shape our business. In this constantly-changing profession, it is imperative that we, as leaders, be at the forefront of change and unite as one. If we don't collaborate, educate, and lead, we will go the way of extinct species. Those who don't adapt to change will surely become extinct.

As part of SAFMLS' continuing team-building efforts, I welcome our U. S. Public Health Service and Veteran's Affairs brethren to join us in our forward progress. Many Army, Navy, and Air Force service men and women have continued their service in the Public Health and VA. We want to see more of you in SAFMLS!

Thank you for all you do for SAFMLS and our laboratory profession. See you next year in Memphis, Tennessee!