

Chicago

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Baxter Healthcare in Round Lake, Illinois, hosted the NCSLI Chicago Section meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2015. We were very excited to bring to the Chicago area two major highlights from the 2015 NCSLI Annual Workshop & Symposium in Grapevine, Texas.

After short introductions by the Chicago Section Coordinator, Jim Salsbury, Mitutoyo America, and Andre Brodsky, Baxter Healthcare, the Chicago section welcomed Paul Reese from Baxter Healthcare. Paul's paper and presentation on "Instrument Adjustment Policies" won the Best Paper Award at the 2015 Workshop & Symposium. His paper was also quite well-received by the Chicago section crowd of around 40 attendees. Paul's presentation addressed the fundamental question about when is adjustment beneficial in calibration.

The Chicago section was also excited to bring another highlight from this past summer in Grapevine, Texas – the *ISO/IEC 17025* Workshop. Tim Osborne, Trescal, and VP of Operations for NCSLI, and who

is directly involved with the revision of this standard that is so important to many NCSLI member organizations, agreed to lead a shortened version of the workshop at the Chicago section meeting. Prior to lunch, Tim discussed the ISO process and the current status of the revision to *ISO/IEC 17025*. The timing was perfect, as the first committee draft (CD) was released just that morning.

After lunch, Tim continued the *ISO/IEC 17025* Workshop. Tim presented on many of the key changes being debated that will impact accredited calibration and testing laboratories. Not surprisingly, Tim's presentation turned into a lively discussion with lots of questions and comments from those in attendance. We greatly appreciate both Tim's time in coming to speak in Chicago and also with his handling of all the questions we threw at him.

In-between Paul and Tim, the Chicago section welcomed Baxter Healthcare's Charles Emken. Charles, who works in IT for Baxter Healthcare, presented on

"Regulatory Initiatives and their Impact on Technology." His presentation focused on important developments in data exchange standards with a goal to speed the delivery of new therapies to patients. He discussed an organization called the Allotrope Foundation, which Baxter is a member company, which is building an open framework for laboratory data.

We concluded the meeting with news from the NCSLI Board, including our next Chicago Section meeting date which is Wednesday April 20, 2016 at Cole-Parmer/Innocol in Vernon Hills, Illinois.

After the meeting, the attendees were welcomed by Baxter for a tour of their facilities, including their calibration laboratories. On behalf of the Chicago section, I would like to thank Baxter Healthcare and Andre Brodsky for hosting a very successful Chicago Section Meeting.

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Chicago Meeting.