

# Regional News

## 1311 Twin Cities Section



**Hosted By: Medtronic Incorporated**  
**May 6, 2009**

The Twin Cities Section 1311 conducted its second meeting of the year on May 6th, 2009. Our meeting was hosted by Medtronic Incorporated and took place at their new facility in Moundview, Minnesota. The meeting included five speakers, NCSLI announcements, group discussions, numerous door prizes and concluded with a tour of the Medtronic Metrology Laboratory.

We had 117 attendees representing numerous companies and industries throughout the region. This was the largest number of attendees for a Twin Cities section meeting in recent memory. We are very thankful for such an active and supportive NCSLI membership.

The Twin Cities section coordinator, Kevin Rust of MTS Systems Corporation, started the meeting with some initial introductions and welcoming everyone for attending. Next, Walter Nowocin, Medtronic Metrology Laboratory Manager, conducted a host presentation followed by a historical overview of Medtronic.

Our first speaker was Carl Closmore from Medtronic who presented "Effective Equipment Management using RFID Technology." As many of you already know, especially within

large facilities with thousands of calibration assets, we all face various challenges and obstacles when it comes to locating and retrieving equipment when it's due for calibration. With numerous photos and examples, Carl discussed the justification process, vendor selection, implementation, improvements, and the success associated with utilizing RFID technology in a calibration laboratory.

The second speaker was Jon Sanders from Fluke Corporation, Hart Scientific Division, who presented "Temperature – PRT Drift and use of Mini TPW." Jon presented practical examples and techniques that can be utilized to detect undesirable PRT drift and how this information can be used to discern the root cause of the drift. Restoring probe performance by annealing and avoiding certain practices that can lead to undesirable PRT drift were also discussed.

Our third speaker was Doug Lynde from On Time Support who presented "Using Web Based Products in the Metrology Industry." Doug provided a historical overview of various computer technology in the calibration laboratory. Unfortunately, for many, it was a trip down memory lane. According to Doug, we seem to be coming full circle and are returning to centralized databases and servers. As Doug



Walter Nowocin, Medtronic



Carl Closmore, Medtronic

summarized, increasing requirements for more connectivity and web based technology can be challenging since many metrology labs generally do not speak "IT."

Terry Conder from 3M provided an update of recent NCSLI and Board of Directors activities in addition to the upcoming conference in San Antonio. We then opened the floor to discuss three questions submitted by members. These questions and subsequent discussions in-



Twin Cities Section Group Photo – 117 attendees.

involved calibration intervals associated with glass scale standards, calibration practices associated with precision toolmaker vises and member practices regarding internal quality audits in compliance with *ISO 17025*.

After lunch and a brief door prize session, it was time for the next installment of our ongoing series entitled "How do you calibrate that?" Steve Boyles from Medtronic presented "Temperature – Calibrating and using Thermocouple Instrumentation." After a review of basic thermocouple principles, Steve provided some in-depth examples regarding the functionality of thermocouple instruments, calibration equipment, calibration methods and specifications. Steve followed with numerous calibration tips, observations and a list of reference documents associated with thermocouples and associated instrumentation.

Our fifth speaker was Paul Hanssen from WorkPlace Training who presented "Safety in the Calibration Laboratory." Paul provided some examples that reminded us of the numerous hazards we can be exposed to in a typical calibration laboratory. These hazards may include flammable liquids and gases, chemicals, electrical parameters, temperature, pressure, and lasers. As Paul summarized, safety awareness, procedures and training are critical to maintaining a safe laboratory environment.

Our meeting was concluded at 3:30 PM with some final announcements and the door prize finale. Many attendees then gathered for a tour of the Medtronic Metrology Laboratory. I wish to thank Medtronic for hosting our meeting, all speakers, numerous door prize contributors, our section membership for their continued support and my fellow Steering Committee members for making this another successful and very well attended Twin Cities NCSLI section meeting. Our next section meeting is September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 at Boston Scientific in Maple Grove, MN.

**Kevin Rust, Twin Cities Section Coordinator**

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