

2017 – 2018 FELLOWS

LYDIA MIKHAIL, PHM, MBA

Laboratory Manager

Orange County Public Health Laboratory



Lydia Mikhail is the Laboratory Manager for the Orange County Public Health Laboratory (OCPHL). She received her Bachelor's degree in Biology with a Minor in Chemistry from California State University, Fullerton. In 1990, she joined the OCPHL as Laboratory Assistant, and obtained her Public Health Microbiologist (PHM) Certificate in 1992. As a PHM I, she rotated through all the major laboratory departments: Bacteriology, Virology/Serology and TB/Mycology/Parasitology in six years. In 1998, she was promoted to PHM II and to Supervising PH Microbiologist for the TB/Mycology/Parasitology sections in 2000. In 2002, she participated in the lab planning and upgrade of OCPHL's BSL 3 suite, to meet the Select Agent

Program requirements, and has served as the laboratory's Alternate Responsible Official.

She became the Administrative Supervisor and was promoted to Laboratory Manager in 2006. As a Laboratory Manager, she supervised five laboratory technical supervisors, oversaw the day-to-day operations of the lab, including but not limited to, quality assurance, regulatory requirements, budget, contracts, facility, personnel and safety. She also served as the Project Manager for the Cerner-LIS implementation and lab liaison for the ground-up build of the Water Quality Lab. Between 2010 and 2015, she took on two promotional roles outside of the lab but within the Agency – as the Disease Control and Epidemiology Division Manager and the Health Disaster Management Division Manager.

In 2015, Lydia returned to her former position as the Laboratory Manager of the OCPHL where she continues to oversee daily lab operations including lab strategic planning, staffing retention, shortages, hiring, and quality assurance. She works very closely with their network of laboratory partners and clients in coordinating OCPHL testing services pertaining to major outbreaks and surveillance.

Lydia's educational and professional achievements include two master's degrees while working full time – an MBA in Health Care Management in 2002 and very recently, in March 2017, a Master of Arts in Ethical Leadership (MEL). In 2005, she participated in a study and co-authored the "*Reduction in turnaround time for laboratory diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis by routine use of a nucleic acid amplification test*", one of the first studies published on this subject.