



# VOLUSION...ASCLS SD

Grassroots explosion of **VOICE**, **VALUE**, **VISION**  
Official publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science ~ South Dakota

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### Attachment:

**---2012 Fall Collaborative Conference - Program & Registration Brochure**

VOLUSION...ASCLS-SD is published quarterly and is made available to all ASCLS SD members in electronic format. The current issue and past issues will also be available for on-line viewing on the Society's web page: [www.ascls-sd.org](http://www.ascls-sd.org). The co-editors reserve the right to edit content and length of material to meet publication specifications.

All ASCLS SD members are invited to submit articles of interest to the co-editors for publication in future issues.

**It's Time to Renew Your Professional Spirit!  
Plan on Attending the 2012 Fall Collaborative Conference...  
Register Today!**



**Calling All  
Clinical Laboratory Professionals,  
Industry Partners & Students!  
REGISTER TODAY  
November 8-9, 2012  
ASCLS-SD & CLMA Siouxland  
"Fall Collaborative Conference"  
Best Western Ramkota Hotel  
Aberdeen SD**

**Early Bird Registration Savings Ends October 19  
Make Your Room Reservation Before October 10**

**Continuing Education                      Keynote Speakers  
Exhibit Hall & Social                      Networking & Fun!!  
ASCLS-SD & CLMA Siouxland Meetings      Student Bowl**

The above conference will be a great opportunity for laboratory professionals to network with others in the field and to obtain valuable education. The educational offerings will cover a broad range of laboratory topics, which are designed for all levels of laboratory professionals and all sizes of laboratories. Whether your interests are in how to better manage the "overwhelm" in your life, learning about new laboratory tests or test updates, writing and maintaining SOP's, developing effective competency assessment programs, CLIA updates and other Health Care topics, there will be an educational opportunity for you.

**Complete Program & Registration Form Attached To This Issue  
-or- Visit the meeting website at: [www.ascls-sd.org/id71.html](http://www.ascls-sd.org/id71.html)**

**We hope to see you in Aberdeen!**  
*~Bernie Reddy, 2012 Conference Chair*





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**President's Message: "Keep Our Grass Roots Organization Strong"**

By: Robert Jenson, ASCLS-SD President 2012-13

Over the years I have heard it said that ASCLS is a grass roots organization where the power of the organization is with the members. I then thought what does it take to keep our grass/turf healthy and green? It needs to be watered deeply and nourished so the roots can grow deep and strong to sustain it during hot weather.

There are many opportunities for that deep watering with ASCLS from the Region V meeting in Alexandra, MN this October, the State meeting in Aberdeen this November, our spring 2013 meeting in Yankton South Dakota, to the National meeting next July in Houston Texas. Other watering comes from the *ASCLS Today* newsletter published 10 times a year, the quarterly *Journal of Clinical Laboratory Science*, our award winning state newsletter, *ASCLS-SD...VOLUSION*. We gain nourishment from connections through state and national e-mails, ASCLS on Facebook, twitter and LinkedIn. We have specialized nutrients from the national and soon to be regional Leadership Academy.

But turf isn't just made up of an individual blade of grass. A strong turf is made of many blades combined and knit together with a strong root system. ASCLS is that root system that knits laboratory professionals together from all areas of the country. The more members we have the thicker and greener that turf becomes.



Another attribute of green grass is that it is actively growing. ASCLS is active in getting our message to congress with Legislative Days, and the Political Action Committee. We are active in continued education opportunities at state, regional and national meetings. ASCLS is actively promoting the profession on state and national levels. There is active interaction with the public through "LabTestsOnline.org" where ASCLS's Consumer Response Team answer questions regarding laboratory test results.

If 70% of medical decisions are made from the results of laboratory testing you could say that laboratory professionals are the turf that healthcare is played on. So help me keep this grass roots organization strong, vibrant and actively growing.



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**Your Premiere Websites!  
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**ASCLS-SD**

[www.ascls-sd.org](http://www.ascls-sd.org)



**ASCLS Region V**

[www.ascls-sd.org/asclsregionv](http://www.ascls-sd.org/asclsregionv)



**ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium**

[www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting](http://www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting)



**ASCLS**

[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)



**REGION V TRI-STATE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY  
MORE INFO TO BE AVAILABLE SOON!**



**Region V Director's Message: Celebrating ASCLS & Region V**

By: Deb Rodahl, ASCLS Region V Director

The ASCLS National meeting is a high energy, jam packed week of celebrating everything that is right with the laboratory profession. We have a chance to participate in continuing education opportunities with speakers from all over the country. The social networking encompasses all 50 states where we can share and learn from our peers. The national meeting for me is like a very large family reunion. Once you get to know people from other states you develop life-long friendships. Now through the aid of electronic social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), we can stay closer connected throughout the year, however I would not want to miss the family reunion!

**ASCLS Region V Smiling Faces Los Angeles, CA 2012**



ASCLS Governance is interspersed throughout the week and is a great tribute to the grass roots foundation of our organization. Members can start the week out by attending the **ASCLS Board of Directors Meeting** to hear how their state and regional input, requests for actions, and/or concerns are discussed and action plans developed. National committee meetings fill the afternoon where state attendees are welcome to participate. This year a request for action was approved to investigate a way to allow pro-rated dues for newly joining members so that someone joining in December or January would not have to pay the full dues amount and then pay again in July. Another request for action involved creating a national award for creative web site design. Equally important discussion centered on the progress of the merger discussions with CLMA. Information from the 3 work groups was presented to members with many opportunities for discussion on the items where we have not reached consensus. It was clear from our member's input that people want to see this merger come to fruition. The merger talks continue to move forward and this will be an exciting time for the profession when the work is completed.

**Issues Updates** and **Open Forum** sessions allow members a chance to hear about the accomplishments of the year and the goals for the future. The Open Forum session invites members to speak-up about the items presented. Three position paper updates were presented for discussion; Scope of Practice, Independent Practice, and Value of the Laboratory. The Futures Committee presented their recommendation that ASCLS continue to follow a hybrid model for how we are managed. This includes having a paid Executive Vice-President and staff with outsourcing other areas such as meeting management, accounting, web-site, and other areas of support.



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[www.alere.com](http://www.alere.com)



**Regional Caucuses** are held to allow each region to discuss the business of the day and to prepare for the House of Delegate's meeting at the end of the week. This year most of the elected positions had multiple candidates. All candidates were well qualified, which further demonstrates the commitment of our member to the profession. This year I was elected to serve a 2<sup>nd</sup> three-year term as your Region V Director. I am proud to represent the states in our Region. It is inspiring to spend time recognizing all the Region V accomplishments and awards received at the meeting. See the amazing list below!

The **ASCLS House of Delegates** caps off the week. This is where the grass roots members have an opportunity to hear and speak-out regarding the items brought forward for discussion and approval. This year the three Position Paper updates were approved. The ASCLS Board of Directors also put the ASCLS – CLMA Merger workgroup documents on the agenda to allow for more discussion of the contents of the documents. It was an exciting House of Delegates and a great way to close out this week!

### **ASCLS National Meeting Reasons To Celebrate... Congrats to All!**

- ★ 50 Years of Membership - Carol McCoy (MN), Bonnie Fingerhut (SD)
- ★ Beckman Coulter Student Travel Grant to attend the ASCLS Meeting - Heather Schmitz (MN)
- ★ Gloria F "Mike" Gilbert Memorial Trustee Award - Lezlee Koch (SD)
- ★ Member Grant Award - Pat Tille (SD)
- ★ Dorothy Morrison Scholarship (\$1,500) - Cassy Schemberger (MN)
- ★ E & R Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship - Mony Mak (WI)
- ★ Student Forum Leadership Award Nominee - Richard Kipena (SD)
- ★ ASCLS Poster Competition – Professional Category Winner - April Harken (WI)
- ★ ASCLS Poster Competition – Undergraduate Category Winner - Cuifen Li (WI)
- ★ New Professional Member of the Year Nominee - Stephanie Bonertz (SD)
- ★ Promotion of the Profession Award - First Place – Minnesota
- ★ Electronic Newsletter - First Place – South Dakota, Second Place – Minnesota
- ★ ASCLS Member of the Year Award Nominees - Jean Bauer (MN), Lori Murray (SD), John Strous (WI)
- ★ ASCLS Board of Directors Awards (work with Government Affairs) - Rick Panning (MN)
- ★ ASCLS National Student Forum Secretary - Katie Grosz (ND)

*It is truly an honor to represent Region V in ASCLS. I enjoy hearing from our members (or non-members). I can be reached at [drodahl@earthlink.net](mailto:drodahl@earthlink.net) (651)779.8906*



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Have you renewed your ASCLS 2012-13 membership? If you have not, please consider renewing today so you continue to receive all the benefits that ASCLS membership brings you. When you renew, you make the following statement,

**"I'm a proud medical laboratory science & health care professional!"**



## Recruit A New Member!

### Be An ASCLS Star!

Every clinical laboratorian deserves the professional benefits of **ASCLS!**

- ★ Award winning publications
- ★ Members-only discounts for continuing education, resources, references and tools
- ★ Professional & Regulatory Advocacy
- ★ Grassroots benefits at the local, state, and regional levels
- ★ An instant professional family of thousands
- ★ Cutting edge resources and updates
- ★ Leadership development
- ★ Discounted services - credit cards, hotels, insurance programs and more

Share **ASCLS's VOICE, VALUE & VISION** with your professional friends and colleagues! We all benefit when ASCLS grows! The more members we have in South Dakota, the stronger our professional voice is here at home. Recruitment tips & tools can be found at:

<http://www.ascls.org>  
<http://www.ascls-sd.org/>

Join Online at:  
<https://ascls.site-ym.com/?page=Join>



## Professional Membership in ASCLS Makes A Difference!

By: Carmelle Miller, ASCLS-SD Board Member-at-Large 2011-13 and Mona Gleysteen, ASCLS-SD Membership Chair 2012-13

### HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

It's that time of year to renew your ASCLS membership. If you are like me, renewing your membership can easily be forgotten amongst all the other tasks on the "to do" list. If you are a procrastinator, you may appreciate the ability to renew on line, perhaps waiting until the very last day or after an email reminder. If you are not comfortable with online payments, you probably like the mail in form. Whatever method you prefer, we need your membership in ASCLS. Whether you have been a member for one year or many years, know that your professional membership in ASCLS impacts our profession and our voice in ASCLS.

It is easy to become complacent and think that your membership voice isn't important or does not serve an important purpose. If you are feeling that way, let me highlight just a few of our professional organization's local and national projects that every ASCLS membership makes a difference in:

- ★ Promoting the profession to the public and other health care professionals
- ★ Planning local/regional educational meetings
- ★ Advocating on Capitol Hill to help prevent cuts to fee schedules and the workforce shortage
- ★ Collaboration between ASCLS and CLMA to become a unified voice
- ★ Leadership Academy to train future leaders

In summary, ASCLS is working to promote our profession, to recruit and train individuals to keep up with demand, and ensure that the quality laboratory services provided are reimbursed. In my opinion, that is a good value. I hope you agree. ~ **Carmelle Miller**

### PROFESSIONAL REFLECTIONS OF "WHAT-IF"

I expect to retire from teaching within the next year. With retirement (and age, I suppose) comes self-reflection and thoughts of What-if. What-if I had never gotten involved with ASCLS? First I think of the friendships developed through my membership and involvement in the organization that I would have missed. I think about the meetings and fun times associated with the meetings. There was the time Deb Pravecek, Peggy Jennings, and I were lost in the Florida everglades while attending an ASCLS meeting in Orlando. Or the time that we had at least 6 people crammed in the back of a compact car on the way from Philadelphia, PA to Atlantic City, NJ. I was responsible for that trip—just to see the ocean and the casino. I don't think Pam Kieffer will ever forget it.

What about all the fantastic educational sessions that I have been able to attend? I would have missed those. There were the educational sessions on education at CLEC and the educational sessions on laboratory medicine. If you can, attend a national ASCLS meeting. Your eyes will certainly be opened. The sessions are fantastic and the exhibit hall is beyond belief.

I would have missed out on being a part of quite a number of issues, from levels of practice and various position papers to the merger of NCA and the Board of Certification. I always thought that Hell would freeze over before we ever saw that merger and I WAS THERE when it happened.

Basically, my life and professional experiences would have been pretty drab and dry if it weren't for my involvement with ASCLS-SD and ASCLS. If you are a member and don't have many stories to tell, I would recommend that you volunteer for a committee or board position. My life has been so much serendipity because I volunteered to do something for ASCLS. Encourage your professional friends to become members too. ~ **Mona Gleysteen**

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## Event



## Calendar



### FALL SYMPOSIUM



Voice - Value - Vision

### ASCLS Region V Tri-State Fall Symposium

October 11-12, 2012

[www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting](http://www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting)



### ASCLS-SD & CLMA 2012 Fall Collaborative Conference

November 8-9, 2012

Aberdeen SD

[www.ascls-sd.org/id71.html](http://www.ascls-sd.org/id71.html)



## ASCLS Annual Meeting Delegate Reports

Los Angeles, California - July 17-21, 2012



### 2012 ASCLS-SD Delegation, Los Angeles CA

Left to Right: Lori Murray, Shirley Heber, Bob Jenson, Stephanie Bonertz, Lezlee Koch, Richard Kipena

**Stephanie Bonertz, ASCLS-SD New Professional Delegate-** Los Angeles was the site of the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual ASCLS meeting this year. As one of the six delegates for South Dakota, I attended additional meetings along with the scientific sessions offered. There were approximately 430 people registered for this year's meeting. The week was full of governance meetings of the different committees within ASCLS and scientific sessions.

I attended the Promotion of the Profession Committee meeting, conducted by Co-Chair Linda Laatsch. The meeting began with the summary of the charges from 2011-2012 and the activities to date that the committee has accomplished. One charge was to ensure that all promotional materials are available online; website updates were submitted to Joan Polancic. Another charge was to develop a fund raising campaign for an appropriate charitable organization to be held in conjunction with the 2012 annual meeting. This fundraiser, ASCLS Provides HOPE in Los Angeles, along with the Kids in Need Foundation supported a Back to School drive during the annual meeting. Two barrels of school supplies were collected during the meeting. Also at the CLEC meeting in Salt Lake City the committee in coordination with ASCLS staff Joan Polancic and ASCLS meeting management presented **Discover MLS!** This was a panel presentation comprised of PPC members targeting High School guidance counselors and science teachers in the Salt Lake City area with information about Medical Laboratory Science careers. Other ideas brought up at the meeting, included creating a voice over PowerPoint presentation with information about MLS for high school students, and interdepartmental shadowing at facilities to show other healthcare professionals what happens in the laboratory. For example, have an RN shadow a MLS in the lab for a day. Shadowing would require administrative approval but it was a great idea.

I was especially excited to attend the New Professional Committee meeting because I would be able to see what other states are doing with New Professionals and Students. Ideas were brought up on how to introduce ASCLS to the MLS students. One idea was to go to





**ASCLS-SD  
Proudly  
Recognizes!**



**Our New FYP &  
Professional  
Members**



**Rachel Bostrom**  
New Effington

**Tanner Langum**  
Anchorage AK

**Dana Tank**  
Britton



**2012 ASCLS  
Award  
Winners**



**Bonnie  
Fingerhut**

**Lezlee Koch**

**Richard Kipena**

**Stephanie  
Bonertz**

**Lori Murray**



MLS/MLT programs and present ASCLS and its member benefits along with member's personal experience at the beginning of the program and revisit before graduation and repeat the presentation to remind students of this great organization and all the benefits its benefits. Some states have a student night which includes students MLS/MLT programs come together to network and receive helpful information on interviews and preparing resumes.

Attending these meetings allows me to bring back essential information to our grassroots members, the New Professional/Student Task Force and reinforces that being a part of ASCLS is a great way to acquire knowledge, network with colleagues and make lifelong friends. Thank you, ASCLS-SD, for giving me this opportunity!



**Richard Kipena, ASCLS-SD Student Delegate** - The Student Forum was very busy this year at the national meeting in Los Angeles, California, and the work put forth by student representatives could not have been more progressive. The orientation session introduced students to ASCLS in its entirety, provided a background of the organization including the history, layout of the societies and the "levels" of the organization, and then focused on the role of student members in the society. Although fewer students attended this year than have in the past, the number of states that sent students was still fairly high.



One of the main areas of focus in the student forum this year was building an effective student organization at the local level, particularly in the university setting. A group of students representing Texas State University gave a presentation about how they, as undergraduate juniors and seniors in an MLS program, brought their university's student members together

to celebrate and highlight the field of medical laboratory science at the university setting. They highlighted several ideas to show how student members can create and sustain an effective university chapter or society and keep students interested in their program, society, and career. Some of the most difficult aspects of maintaining an on-campus student organization, such as fundraising and creating activities/events, seem much less daunting once a group of highly committed students and future professionals put their minds together and make it happen. Of course every university setting is different and not every suggestion can be taken into the context of every MLS organization on college campuses, but nonetheless, the session was very informative.

Lastly, the week concluded with student forum elections, and there were many students running for elected positions. It was great to see students take action and provide their own vision for students in the organization. This year, the student forum chair, vice chair, and secretary positions were open at the national level; this past year's student forum chair, Jasmin Davis, became the First Year Professional director and the new student forum chair for the 2012-2013 year is Lacey Campbell of Georgia. Lacey is currently a Master's of Health Science student at Georgia Health Sciences University.

Overall, the student forum provided much insight for what we can do as an organization in South Dakota and how students can really impact their professional organization in a positive way.



**Bob Jenson, ASCLS-SD President 2012-13** - I just flew in from Los Angeles and boy are my arms tired! Another exciting annual meeting has held in the city of the angels. It was



**EYE ON GOVERNMENT**

☑ Supreme Court's Ruling in Regards to the **Affordable Care Act (ACA)**. Summary is as follows:

- Title 1 Section 8 provides taxation authority to Congress and thus the ACA fell in that act. Saying that Congress (thus the people) need to decide fate of ACA.
- Two provisions already in place
  1. No pre existing denial
  2. Children  $\leq 26$  years of age will be covered by family
- Medical device tax of 2.3% in January
- Medicare Advantage - Private insurers can compete with Medicare due to 2003 law. This will be withdrawn back to fill doughnut hole along with device tax and Rx coverage change
- Medicaid formulation change/expansion was shot down by USSC so states can now choose to participate or not.
- Productivity adjustments for clinical

surprising that I had to go to Los Angeles to find cooler weather than South Dakota! It was 20 degrees cooler in Los Angeles compared to Sioux Falls during our week there.

My biggest take away from the meeting was while the ASCLS/CLMA merger didn't happen this year, a lot of hard work has been put into that process and that the process is continuing. We also have dedicated leaders working on our behalf to strengthen our profession and society. Over the past year, three Work Groups with equal representation from ASCLS and CLMA worked on the potential merger charges from the two organization's Boards and made a lot of progress. The three work groups were Membership, Member Offerings and Governance. An all inclusive report from the Work Groups was presented at the Board of Directors meeting and a motion was made to send the report to the House of Delegates as an informational item.

**MERGER IS NOT A 4 LETTER WORD**



**IN UNITY IS STRENGTH**

The Membership and Member Offering Work Groups were in consensus with no outstanding issues to resolve. There were 4 unresolved issues from the Governance Work Group. The Work Group report was voted on to allow open discussion on the House of Delegate floor. There was overall support for the work that has been done and excellent input during the

House of Delegates regarding the unresolved issues. The ASCLS Board of Directors was keenly interested in hearing delegate input on the issues and what was import to each individual. There were ample times made available throughout the meeting for input so that the Board of Directors would know the wishes of our grassroots members. To me the issues are not insurmountable and there is room for give and take on both sides to come to agreement that will be beneficial to us all and to the profession of medical laboratory science.



**Lori Murray, ASCLS-SD Delegate** - At the ASCLS National meeting in Los Angeles in July, I attended a Governance session on Leadership Development. It is recognized that many ASCLS constituent societies have struggled to find willing persons to step into leadership positions in recent years. This is not an unusual situation in volunteer professional organizations and this concern has been a frequent topic of conversation at ASCLS Board of Directors meetings. Often it isn't even to find willing persons, but to identify persons the might be willing. There are often persons interested, but might be afraid to step forward due to the recycled leadership that has been in place. In the past the States have been charged with developing mentoring programs, expanding membership numbers to expand the pool of potential leaders, or to provide more support to current leaders and members so that the prospect of serving the organization. These programs were often not developed, started, or if they were... were not continued due to lack of structure and content.

The Leadership Development committee has been working hand in hand with the Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy program has brought a wealth of knowledge to the participants as well as to the Leadership committee, as to what it takes to build leaders. The challenge still lies in getting people into the program or bringing this national program to a more local level. The questions remain:

- ★ Are there other ways to give potential ASCLS leaders the skills they need to serve the organization at the local, state, regional and national level?
- ★ Is there a way to 'package' Leadership Academy curriculum/activities so that regions/states/local societies can use the materials to encourage leadership development in even more individuals?
- ★ Can we make leadership development programs similar in content and scope to those in the ASCLS Leadership Academy available to those who cannot commit to the national program due to employment, financial and/or personal constraints?



laboratories will also be implemented.

- Other facets of Medicare will save \$5-10 millions bringing into being Accountable Care Organizations (ACO's).
- Healthcare insurance for "Cadillac" plans will have ceilings.
- 2.3% will occur as additional cuts to Medicare if sequestration occurs on January 1, 2013

Update for the **Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR)** includes a provision for physician signature requirement.

- CMS stated that this provision was a mistake and that it will be taken out in the final version.
- There is concern with trusting the responsible parties to remove this language. It may not be wise to remain silent on this and communication with CMS may be needed to assure that the physician signature provision is removed

In July, **CLIA proficiency testing legislation HR 6118 and a companion bill for Senate (S. 3391)** were introduced. Both

★ How can we "BRING THE ASCLS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY TO YOU?"

As part of the leadership Academy program, they are beginning to develop tools to pass along what they have learned to the State leaders, to assist in providing programs, content and guidelines for training. Leadership growth is something every person can benefit from, regardless of how far you wish to advance your leadership potential.

Our very own ASCLS Region V is in process of developing a regional Tri-State Leadership Academy. Current societies working on this include ASCLS-MN, ASCLS-ND and ASCLS-SD. Having a regional Leadership Academy available to our members will be an excellent member benefit. If you are interested in exploring your leadership potential, doing so within ASCLS is a very non-threatening and professionally fulfilling place to start. At every level there will be someone there to mentor you along the way. Watch for announcements as they are released.



**Lezlee Koch, ASCLS-SD Past President 2012-13** - The ASCLS meeting this year was again filled with governance updates and allowed excellent opportunities for our grassroots members to give guidance on many areas of professional actions that are being taken for ASCLS and our profession. Several of the areas of action have been shared in the other delegate reports. Additional actions include the 2011-12 review and revision of several of our society's position papers. The following position papers were revised and revisions were approved by this year's House of Delegates:

- ★ Health Care Reform
- ★ Independent Practice
- ★ Scope of Practice
- ★ Value of Clinical Laboratory Services

An announcement was made in regards to the ASCLS website. Through the past couple of years it has become evident that the current ASCLS website is not meeting the needs of our organization and members. ASCLS has decided to contract with a new vendor to begin developing a website to better meet the needs of our ever changing organization. Work on the website will begin shortly after the annual meeting.



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## Education Scientific Assembly: "Incorporation of research into MLS education"

By: Vicki Geiser, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology and Director Medical Laboratory Sciences, Mount Marty College, ASCLS-SD Education SA Chair 2012-13

Preparation of MLS students for their future careers requires educating the students through Kolb's learning cycle; this often commences with instructor-directed abstract conceptualization in the classroom, moving towards active experimentation in course associated labs. It is often limited in concrete experience which facilitates student-directed reflective observation. In order to circumvent the learning cycle break, students may obtain concrete experiences through research opportunities. Incorporation of student research experiences enhances learning and prepares them for the realities of the discipline. As the MLS Director at Mount Marty College, I have highly recommended to our MLS students that they participate in a research experience during their pre-clinical preparation.

have the intent to change language related to the revocation of a laboratory's CLIA certification for referral of proficiency testing from one clinical laboratory to another.

- According to Judy Yost from CLIA, she stated that the current law doesn't give them discretion and there is no ability to be flexible on actions that can be taken.
- ASCLS will support the bills, although it is unknown when that will happen as Congress is on recess until August. More than likely this will not be discussed until after the election.

#### **CLIA: IQCP**

(Individualized Quality Control Program) draft of interpretive guidelines, is in process. These guidelines will replace the previously adopted 'equivalent QC guidelines' and will be written with emphasis on the now final CLSI EP-23 guideline. It is believed that CLIA will ask for input on these guidelines from various laboratory organizations.



Research students benefit from an expanded repertoire of lab techniques along with their understanding of procedures. I am fortunate that my research program easily translates to MLS since we utilize techniques such as IHC, PCR, and aseptic technique on a regular basis. I require that the students first learn about each technique step and develop their own protocol based on a literature review. We then discuss the variability in the protocols and consider the overall approach and potential pitfalls.

Research students acquire many of the technical skills necessary for MLS work. However, this extends beyond tools and instruments to general biomedical procedures. Concepts such as universal precautions become second nature as students learn to handle specimens and biohazardous materials.

As students conduct research, they develop an appreciation for standard operating procedures and protocol design. When students design their own protocols, it deepens their understanding of the technique, but also allows them to experience the influence of uncontrolled variables to the outcome. They learn the potential effects of altering a step or reagent in the protocol. Likewise, controls become an invaluable commodity when students are faced with data that is inconsistent or unexpected.

Since research, like MLS, is not an exact science, students gain firsthand experience in troubleshooting. As the students encounter difficulties such as false positives and negatives, it permits them to explore the technique and to devise a systematic approach to eliminating the error source. Furthermore, students realize the complexity and understand the limitations of the techniques.

Finally, research experiences expand student awareness of disciplines and career options beyond the traditional biomedical paths. Unfortunately, MLS can be a discipline that is less in the limelight and therefore is not considered by those seeking biomedical careers. Students who conduct research have the opportunity to explore the more hidden avenues and gain a more thorough awareness of the overall process of healthcare. In particular, I make a conscious effort to bring all of my research students to the MLS lab when we meet with our collaborators. In turn, the lab has coordinated tours so they can witness other MLS fields. Overall, incorporation of research not only contributes to a comprehensive MLS education, but also may entice additional biomedical students into the MLS discipline.



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### **Consultant Scientific Assembly: "Watch What You Say"**

By: Michelle Friesen, ASCLS-SD Consultant Scientific Assembly Chair 2012-13

**...If I speak with a silver tongue and convince a crowd but don't have love, I leave a bitter taste with every word I say. So let my life be the proof of Your love... -For King and Country**

People can expect a certain amount of gossip in the workplace. The key is to know when the gossip is causing negative aspects to the team dynamics. Gossip disrupts the workplace and the business of work, hurts employee's feelings, damages personal relationships and reputations and injures employee motivation and morale. In the scientific workplace, gossip may be especially risky, because gossip is almost always based on unverified information,



IHC Research Laboratory - Mount Marty College



**Lezlee Koch**, Clinical Laboratory Manager, Avera McKennan Regional Laboratory, Sioux Falls SD and current ASCLS-SD Past President has been appointed to serve a 4 year term (2012-16) as a committee member of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC).

As outlined in the Charter for this Advisory Committee, CLIAC shall provide scientific and technical advice and guidance to the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); the Assistant Secretary for Health; the Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and the Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The advice and guidance pertain to general issues related to

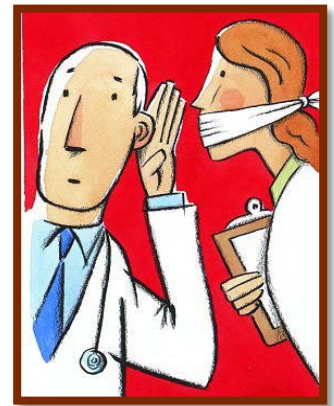
which goes against the basic scientific principles. Gossip may be as prevalent in the lab as elsewhere, but there may be less tolerance for gossipers because they are more likely to be viewed as unprofessional. The problem with gossip is that one day it will be about *you*.

Gossiping may lead into discussion about patients, So along with being careful of general gossip comes the privacy of patients in your facility. HIPAA, which stands for the American Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, is a set of rules to be followed by doctors, hospitals and other health care providers. HIPAA helps ensure that all medical records, medical billing, and patient accounts meet certain consistent standards with regard to documentation, handling and privacy.

Medical staff should keep confidential communications of patient sensitive information (do not discuss in common areas such as elevators, hallways, cafeteria, lobby); have limited access to particularly sensitive information; keep private information secure from public view, such as patient records on paper and on computer screens; contact the facility's privacy officer if there are problems or concerns.



As healthcare professionals it is our responsibility to protect the privacy of others and the patients we serve. It's tough to go against human nature, but think twice about the consequences. Be careful your "silver tongue" is truly being clever with your words and not being destructive or in the end jeopardize the privacy of patients, other healthcare providers, and your fellow laboratory professionals.



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## ASCLS-SD Strategic Initiatives: Task Force Updates

ASCLS-SD continues its efforts to enhance professional recognition and benefits for its members through work that is being done by our established Task Forces. Below are the update reports from our Strategic Initiative Task Forces.



### Student & New Professional Task Force Update

By: Kay Rasmussen, ASCLS-SD Board Member-at-Large & Task Force Co-Chair



Greetings from our entire task force! We had a great first year and we are looking forward to our second year. The members of the Student/New Professional (S/NP) Task Force are: Stephanie Bonertz, Richard Kipena, Renee Rydell, Tracy Roth, Jen Bannwarth, Cole Weaver, Jennie Barents, Lacey Lane, and Kay Rasmussen.

Our first student scholarship fundraiser of the year will be at the ASCLS-SD Fall Collaborative Conference in Aberdeen. We will have available one or two theme baskets for raffle. If you or your workplace would like to sponsor a basket, please let one of our committee members know. Baskets are always fun and it's a great way to support our students. Also, at the fall

improvement in clinical laboratory quality and laboratory medicine. In addition, the committee shall provide advice and guidance on specific questions related to possible revision of the CLIA standards. Examples include providing guidance on studies designed to improve safety, effectiveness, efficiency, timeliness, equity, and patient-centeredness of laboratory services; revisions to the standards under which clinical laboratories are regulated; the impact of proposed revisions to the standards on medical and laboratory practice; and the modification of the standards and provision of non-regulatory guidelines to accommodate technological advances, such as new test methods and the electronic submission of laboratory information.



Minutes from all CLIAC meetings are public record and can be accessed on the CLIAC website:  
[wwwn.cdc.gov/cliac/default.aspx](http://wwwn.cdc.gov/cliac/default.aspx)

conference we will have a spot where current or upcoming job opportunities can be posted. If you have a job opening or know of one coming up, bring the information to the meeting or get it to one of the task force members and we will get it posted for you. Another exciting event at the fall meeting will be a student "Quiz-Bowl". It will offer some friendly-competition for our students and provide a way to challenge their minds.

As an MLS educator, I always get excited for September. It is the time of year when the "new" laboratory students start classes and I get the opportunity to introduce the laboratory world and ASCLS to them. I enjoy telling them how ASCLS-SD has a special Student/New Professional Task Force that focuses on the needs and challenges of our newer members. Please remember, the S/NP Task Force members are always willing to listen to any comments or suggestions. Our goal is to serve you.



### Promotion of the Profession Task Force

By: Bob Jenson, ASCLS-SD President & Task Force Co-Chair

Big Blue Stem, Indian Grass, Switch Grass are all types of native prairie grasses found in the Midwest. Any one of these grasses my wife could point out to you by sight because she has interest grasses, gardening and the outdoors.



The Promotion of the Profession task force is trying to get the "people on the street" interested in laboratory professionals in much the same way. Through local food/clothing drives at state meetings, sending electronic copies of the "VOLUSION" to our state legislators, National Medical Laboratory Professionals week celebrations, or this last year's Governors Proclamation of National Medical Laboratory Week.

On the national level each of the past two annual meetings we have held school supply drives for Atlanta last year and Los Angeles this year. Another opportunity is our annual trek to Capitol Hill for legislative days in March. Getting our profession, voice, values and faces in front of our national representatives in the houses of congress is a positive promotion.

If you have an interest in promoting our profession or have new and interesting ideas on promotions please consider contacting the task force. Any ideas or members wanting to join the task force please contact me via e-mail at: [bob.jenson@prairielakes.com](mailto:bob.jenson@prairielakes.com). The only bad idea is the one not spoken! Come be a part in promoting laboratory science!



### Leadership Development Task Force

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS-SD Past President & Task Force Co-Chair

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1...Region V Tri-State Leadership Academy is progressing to 'lift off'! The final touches are being put on the structure, curriculum, application process, marketing materials, web page, etc. of our regional Leadership Academy. The final step that needs to be completed includes ASCLS-MN, ASCLS-ND, and ASCLS-SD Board approval of the Leadership Academy including the signing of the academy charter which includes state society responsibilities for the academy. Watch for additional announcements relating to the Tri-State Leadership academy.



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