



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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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 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.

Pat Tille
ASCLS-SD President
2014-2015



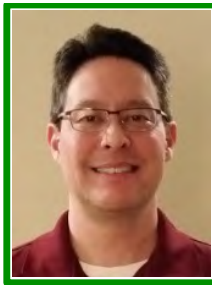
ASCLS ANNUAL AWARDS, ELECTIONS AND SPRING SYMPOSIUM: Celebrating Colleagues and Looking to the Future!

As I look out the window to the melting snow and ice, I am rejuvenated knowing the spring is just around the corner. The birds are returning and the plants will soon be in bloom and we rejoice in celebrating new life and warm, refreshing air. This reminds me of our annual journey in ASCLS. As we near spring we will be celebrating our colleagues achievements and contributions during the past year. We will also be electing new board members and rejoicing as we rejuvenate and bring new ideas into our society.

As we look toward the future with ASCLS-SD it is important to continue to grow, mentor new members and permit our members who wish to take on new challenges and opportunities to lead us into the future. The future is often unpredictable and many laboratory professionals are often afraid of the change and new ideas. I challenge you as professionals to embrace the future, reach out to other professionals and bring them with you on a great journey. I hope you all attend the spring symposium, will consider bringing along a colleague, and get ready to embrace the future of ASCLS-SD! Please also start planning on attending the ASCLS Annual meeting in Atlanta Georgia! The meeting is scheduled for July 28- August 1st Registration and accommodation information will be available soon.

SEE YOU THERE!





Should I Take The TRALI Or Stop To Have A TACO

By: **Brendan Sato**
ASCLS-SD Board Member at Large
2014-2015

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According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) approximately 5 million patients in the U.S. were transfused last year with over 14 million units of blood (www.cdc.gov, 2013). Advances in medicine and laboratory science coupled with a focus on safe blood products beginning in the 1980's has contributed to the safest blood supply in U.S. history. Despite this, there are still risks involved in blood transfusions. Two potentially fatal risks are Transfusion Acquired Lung Injury (TRALI) and Transfusion Associated Circulatory Overload (TACO).

TRALI is defined as an acute syndrome that presents with hypoxemia, dyspnea, and pulmonary infiltrates within 6 hours of transfusion (www.fda.gov, 2007). TACO has been described as a hydrostatic pulmonary edema caused by transfusion. Typically, TACO will present within the first few minutes to several hours of transfusion with hypoxemia, dyspnea and pulmonary infiltrates (www.unitedbloodservices.org, 2013). Auscultation of the lungs will reveal rales or crackles for both TACO and TRALI. Since both present in a similar fashion over a relatively similar time frame, how do we tell them apart? How are they treated and what measures can be taken to reduce the risks? Although similar, there are a few subtle differences. In addition to the symptoms noted above, TRALI can also be characterized by a fever of 1° C or more.

Hypotension is also common but not evident in every TRALI case. TACO on the other hand can be characterized by no fever and hypertension. B-natriuretic peptide will be elevated with TACO, but not with TRALI. Unfortunately, there are no recognized diagnostic criteria available to identify TACO from TRALI.

TRALI is treated with respiratory support and will typically clear within 72 hours. Although the lungs have filled with fluid, treating with diuretics is not warranted. TRALI hypotension is caused by fluid leaking into the lungs from the vasculature. Diuretics will do nothing more than to reduce blood pressure further to dangerously low levels.

The use of steroids is not indicated (www.bloodjournal.org, 2005). TACO is also treated with respiratory support along with the administration of diuretics. Unlike TRALI, fluid buildup is due primarily to an overload of fluids from the transfusion. In this case diuretics will assist in reducing fluid levels thus reducing hypertension (www.bloodservices.org, 2013).

Prevention of both TRALI and TACO can be achieved by a reduction in transfusions. Many hospitals are managing their usage through transfusion committees and the use of Transfusion Safety Officers. Blood components containing plasma from multiparous female donors are most commonly implicated in TRALI reactions.



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ASCLS-SD
www.ascls-sd.org

ASCLS Region V
www.asclssd.org/asclsregionv

**ASCLS Region V Fall
Symposium**
www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting

**ASCLS Region V Tri-State
Leadership Academy**
www.ascls-sd.org/tri-state-leadership-academy



ASCLS
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The American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) standards dictate that plasma donations shall be from males, females who have never been pregnant, or females who have tested negative for HLA antibodies since their last pregnancy. In 2014, AABB added apheresis platelets to the list in an effort to further reduce TRALI risk (www.aabb.org, 2014). TACO is a potential risk for any transfusable product, mitigating risk will involve understanding the patient's current health condition, careful monitoring of the patient during transfusion, and steady control transfusion speed.

In summary, the U.S. Blood supply is the safest it's ever been. TACO and TRALI are two common risks transfusion medicine faces today. Understanding the presentation of each risk along with continued vigilance of donors, product testing, and patient monitoring during transfusion are steps that can be taken to mitigate TACO and TRALI risks.

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N.A. (2013). Blood Safety Basics. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/bloodsafety/basics.html>

N.A. (2007). Proceedings from Blood Products Advisory Committee. Gaithersburg, M

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The ASCLS-SD Spring Meeting!

This year it will be held on April 10 in Watertown at Prairie Lakes Healthcare System. There will be five fascinating speakers with topics ranging from urology, pulmonology, microbiology, infectious disease testing updates, and advocacy. There will also be the South Dakota Annual Meeting, elections for board positions, awards, and fund raising for student travel grants and scholarships. Join us April 10 for a day filled with continuing education, networking, and camaraderie

Share **ASCLS's VOICE, VALUE & VISION** with your professional friends and colleagues! We all benefit when ASCLS grows! The more members we have in SD, the stronger our professional voice is here at home.





President: Stacie Lansink, Sioux Falls SD

- ★ **ASCLS member since 1999**
- ★ **Society participation:** Current President Elect and newsletter editor; previous ASCLS-SD Board Member-at-Large; ASCLS Region V Program Chair 2015; National Immunohematology Vice-Chair 2015 multiple years of state, regional and national meeting attendance
- ★ **Current employment:** Instructor, MLS Program, South Dakota State University, Brookings SD

Professional Views:

I have always believed that we need to promote our profession to the best of our abilities. I have worked in an educational capacity when I worked in the hospital laboratory and now currently as an instructor. I have always felt strongly that it was my duty to promote and educate our profession to individuals that came through the laboratory and demonstrate that we were a vital part of the healthcare team. I joined ASCLS as a student member and have been a member for the past 15 years where I continue to encourage students and other laboratory professionals to become members of ASCLS because of the great opportunities. I have started to become more involved and have attended the ASCLS National meetings in the past few years and was elected last year as the Vice-Chair of the Scientific Assembly in Immunohematology.

I believe ASCLS is important to our profession and we need to continue to grow and promote the profession become a stronger voice in the health care profession and get students and new professionals involved early to gain all the benefits ASCLS can provide.

President Elect: Jeffrey Kistler, Dell Rapids SD

- ★ **ASCLS member since 1994** (includes a few years of lapsed member status)
- ★ **Society participation:** Current President Elect-Elect; previous Student Forum Representative and Board Member, State, regional and national meeting attendance; 2013 Fall Collaborative Chair; 2014 Fall Collaborative Exhibitor committee member
- ★ **Current employment:** Account Executive SD & ND, Roche Diagnostics

Professional Views:

My Philosophy for ASCLS-SD is to ensure that as an organization we continue to mentor students to become involved in our society. I also believe that strong leadership is developed. Therefore I am in favor of our leadership programs to our new and seasoned members to allow them the opportunity to become leaders. I have received so much from becoming a member in my 17 years. I believe we all have to take the time to give back. This is a great organization to network and gain valuable information for the laboratory. Looking to the future of the laboratory it is prudent that we continue to grow our membership and as we have this past year. I will continue to be an advocate for membership as I have been in the past. With my current position am very visible to the laboratories in South Dakota and will continue to talk to laboratory professionals about the benefits of ASCLS-SD.

I appreciate all of the support and look forward to 2015! Wishing you the best!

President Elect-Elect (1 position/2 candidates)

Lori Murray and Kay Rasmussen

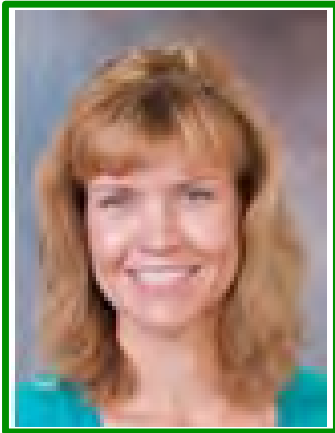
Lori Murray, Brandon SD

- ★ **ASCLS member since 2002**
- ★ **Society participation:** Past President and Board Member 2003-2009; current ASCLS Region V Government Affairs Committee member; multiple years as Lab Administration and Consultant SA Chair; previous Membership committee member; multiple years state, regional and national meeting attendance; Legislative day representative
- ★ **Current employment:** Management & Technical Laboratory Advisor, Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health System, Sioux Falls SD

Professional Views:

My hopes for ASCLS are to keep our society strong and growing. I have been so enlightened since my involvement with ASCLS about the voice I do have. I want to encourage others to find that same thing.. laboratorians both young and old. Security for my future in clinical laboratory science is going to come from





getting all laboratory professionals involved and vocal about the future they want for our profession.

Working together, we will solidify our future goals and keep working at a steady pace to achieve those goals. I believe in accountability and responsibility, and want all laboratorians to harbor those same beliefs for themselves and their profession. No one is looking out for Clinical Laboratory Science in Washington DC without us bringing our thoughts, comments and concerns forward. If we value our profession, we need to stay active and vocal about what we want that profession to be, now and in the future.

I will commit time to reach out personally to our members and non-members, seeking ways to recognize them for being the dedicated professional that they are. My hope is more and more clinical laboratory professionals will recognize that getting involved in ASCLS gives them a chance to grow and develop in ways they maybe haven't imagined. Taking an active role in guiding the direction of our profession is critical. This pride and dedication also confirms to those around you how important our role in patient care and medicine as a whole truly are.

When patients, coworkers and other healthcare providers see a person's dedication, they respect their commitment to their profession. The knowledge brought by your involvement in ASCLS (Legislative, regulatory or safety issues) contributes so much to your own personal growth; that of your workplace, and to the care you give to your patients.

Kay Rasmussen, Vermillion SD

- ★ **ASCLS member since 1984**
- ★ **Society participation:** Previous Board Member-at-Large 2011-14; previous Student/NP Task Force Chair 2011-14; ASCLS-SD Leadership Development Committee; Fall Collaborative Conference Committee member
- ★ **Current employment:** Medical Laboratory Science Academic Director & Assistant Professor, University South Dakota, Vermillion SD

Professional Views:

I believe ASCLS-SD membership is one of the strongest signs an individual can show as to how they view the career as a laboratory professional. ASCLS-SD provides its members with education opportunities, leadership development, professional networking, and updates on legislative activity that involves the laboratory profession. I have been a member since 1984. Over all of those years, I have always felt this organization really was looking out for my professional interests. I want today's new laboratory professionals to feel the same way. Our organization has had a long history of showing support for its membership. It is important that we take this history and incorporate new members and new ideas to strengthen our future. If elected a part of the governing team, I would encourage the society to look for ways to engage the membership by maintaining the activities that members continue to ask for and incorporating the ideas brought by our new members. It is also important that we continue to strive to be the most recognized laboratory professionals group in the state and I feel that we should work more diligently to let the public know how important the profession and our professionals really are. Laboratorians are an essential part of any health care team!

Board Member-at-Large (1 yr term/1 position)

Brendon Sato, Rapid City SD

- ★ **ASCLS member since 2013** (previous membership years and several years of lapsed status)
- ★ **Society participation:** Current interim appointed Board Member-at-Large; multiple years Fall Collaborative Conference Committee member; multiple years of state and regional meeting attendance and vendor representative
- ★ **Current employment:** Laboratory Manager, United Blood Services, Rapid City SD

Professional Views:

My philosophy for leadership is to work hard for the people I serve, be honest and transparent, and to stand my ground. Using this philosophy I would like to challenge our current Society on why we do what we do. I originally left ASCLS because as a bench tech, there was little to no benefit of being involved. Having returned to ASCLS I would like to bring about change that would see a benefit of ASCLS to all its members. This will require a change in thought of our current members as well as laboratory leadership in general. To engage our current members and to excite potential new members, I believe we must actively work with laboratory leadership across the state to demonstrate the value of ASCLS to the lab profession and demonstrate the value of their staff being involved with ASCLS. Only then will we see our numbers rise and more importantly will we see the true strength of this Society, locally, regionally, and nationally.



Board Member-at-Large (2 yr term/2 positions/3 candidates) Pam Kieffer, Melissa Saxlund and Brett Sherrill



Pam Kieffer, Rapid City SD

- ★ **ASCLS member since 1982**
- ★ **Society participation:** Current national ASCLS Chemistry trainer for ASCLS Consumer Webpage; previous ASCLS-SD Past President, Secretary/Treasurer, Fall Collaborative Conference Chair (multiple years) previous national ASCLS International Task Force, Judicial Committee, Bylaws Chair, Board of Directors as th ASCLS Region V Director, Body of Knowledge Task Force, CEA Committee member; state, regional and national meeting attendance multiple years
- ★ **Current employment:** Retired

Professional Views:

As a member since 1982, I have been with the Society through some difficult financial and organizational times. Weaknesses became challenges, which when met, produced a stronger and more unified organization. We meet these challenges because they are members of an organization, which they believe should continue to exist. As a candidate for Board Member at Large, I want to see the strength and unity continue for the state level as well. I will promote all concerns of the Society. I believe in the strength of the "grass roots". They know their needs and I will address any concerns of these needs and actions. I look forward to working with the BOD of our State Society and would be willing to chair any of our committees.

My goals for the Society include keeping the Society abreast of current trends (politically, scientifically, educationally, financially) and providing expertise to the members. Members should benefit from our professional Society's success and commitment. This is and should remain a society for growth of laborator professionals.

Melissa Saxlund, Watertown SD

- ★ **ASCLS member since 2009**
- ★ **Society participation:** Current ASCLS-SD Government Affairs and Political Action Committee Chair, 2011-14; Spring Symposium Chair; previous ASCLS-SD Microbiology SA Chair 2012-14, Promotion of the Profession Committee member 2011-14, Region V Leadership Academy Graduate; state, regional, national and Legislative Symposium meeting attendance multiple years
- ★ **Current employment:** Microbiology/Serology Section Technologist, Prairie Lakes Healthcare System Watertown SD

Professional Views:

My philosophy as a candidate for Board Member-At-Large is to be a voice for all laboratorians in South Dakota. I hope to bring fresh ideas and a logical outlook to the pending issues. I have had the opportunity to experience many different aspects of ASCLS-SD, from being the Microbiology Scientific Assembly Chair to member of the Promotion of the Profession Committee to being the chair of GAC/PAC. I have also been fortunate enough to experience ASCLS from the state to regional to national meetings, along with the Legislative Symposium in Washington, DC. I believe that all of these experiences have given me a wonderful grasp on what ASCLS is and the benefits of being an active member. My goal for ASCLS is to increase our presence locally, statewide, regionally, and nationally.

We need to be aware of and be able to respond to the governmental issues that impact our profession, and ultimately patient care.





Brett Sherrill, Baltic SD

- ★ **ASCLS member since 2014** (previous membership 1993-2005)
- ★ **Society participation:** Past president (2003-04); Board member multiple year (1997-presidential term); state and national meeting attendance multiple years
- ★ **Current employment:** Customer Experience Ambassador (SD), Abbott Laboratories

Professional Views:

I believe the medical laboratory profession is always toward the top of the list for importance in great healthcare. In spite of this importance, many decisions are made about healthcare without laboratory professionals in the discussion. I think it is time to assess what we have been doing as a profession and decide if it is time to do something's differently. I don't pretend to know what something different should be but I am quite certain our profession has been held in the same position for a long time. I'm not satisfied with the position we are in. We owe it to our patients to press for excellence and the laboratory profession delivers excellence in many ways. I believe we can improve how the laboratory is used both in terms of patient care and hospital business. I believe others under utilize our knowledge. I would like to be a part of the discussion about ideas for improving ourselves and ultimately our patients.

New Professional Member-at-Large:

Tiffany Montalvo, Rapid City SD

- ★ **ASCLS member since 2014**
- ★ **Society participation:** Attended the 2014 Spring meeting and Fall Collaborative Conference; participate in the Project Runway fundraising event
- ★ **Current employment:** Current MLS Intern, Rapid City Regional Hospital, Rapid City SD

Professional Views:

Medical laboratory scientists are the unrecognized heroes of the health-care world. Collectively, as a team, we work together for one common goal, to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of patients. We dedicate our time and energy for the betterment of our patients and ensure quality in the work that we do.

Although there are constant advancements in technology and laboratory tests, I strongly believe that there will always be room for improvement. Whether it is in time management, teamwork, or procedural upgrades, I feel that our patients and co-workers deserve the most of what we have to offer.

My goal for my office is to help inspire new & prospective graduates to become members and stay member of the society. I want to also bring fresh ideas to our region, as these are key to the improvement and fluidity of any organization. I also want to continue to build my leadership skills and learn from those around me.

Nominations Committee (2 positions/3 candidates) -

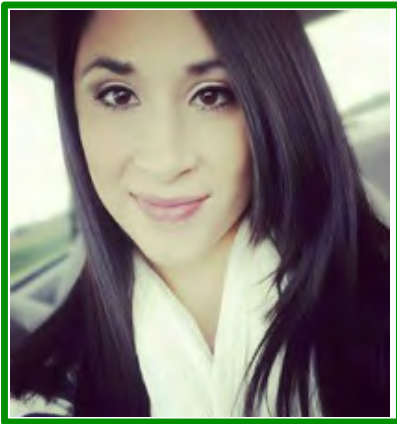
Janet McArthur, Shirley Heber, Stephanie Jacobson

Janet McArthur, Spearfish SD (West River)

- ★ **ASCLS member since 1977**
- ★ **Society participation:** Previous Board member and Nominations Committee member
- ★ **Current employment:** Lead Tech, Spearfish Regional Hospital, Spearfish SD

Professional Views:

My philosophy is: I will do my best to take care of my patients and to do anything I can for ASCLS and ASCLS-SD. My goal for the Nominations Committee is to get more members to be active within the society.





Shirley Heber, Sioux Falls SD (East River)

- ★ **ASCLS member since 2005**
- ★ **Society participation:** Current ASCLS-SD Past President and national Political Action Committee Trustee Region V; previous ASCLS-SD Board member and Secretary/Treasurer multiple years, Government Affairs Chair, Newsletter co-editor and Publications committee member, Consultant SA Chair; previous national Consultant SA Chair; 2015 Fall Collaborative Conference Chair and committee member multiple years; state regional, national and Legislative Symposium meeting attendance multiple years
- ★ **Current employment:** Management & Technical Laboratory Advisor, Avera McKennan Hospital & University, Sioux Falls SD



Professional Views:

The field of laboratory science has provided me with not only a career, but an avenue for continuous learning over the past 30 years. The changes in this field have been extensive, from total “hands-on” manual testing and mouth pipetting to state-of-the-art instrumentation.

My goal as a college student years ago was to work in the medical field where I could make a difference. After 30+ years, I still feel the same goal is applicable and achievable. Laboratorians make a difference in patient lives every day. While the content may be different, the basic premise of laboratory medicine still involves the mystery of the human body and how to solve the puzzles of disease through diagnosis and testing.

ASCLS has provided me with an opportunity to broaden my experiences, and given me the ability to network with other professionals who share my passion for this field. I look forward to serving in whatever areas I can through this nomination.

Stephanie Jacobson, Hermosa SD (West River)

- ★ **ASCLS member since 2014**
- ★ **Society participation:** Current Microbiology SA Chair; state meeting attendance (2012-14)
- ★ **Current employment:** Education/QM Coordinator, Microbiologist, Rapid City SD; Adjunct Faculty MLS Program SDSU, Brookings SD



Professional Views:

Getting involved is a key factor to a successful career. Having the opportunity to promote yourself and your profession through committee involvement is a great experience. It is instrumental that we continue to grow and excel in our profession by honoring and recognizing the hard work and dedication of others.

VOLUSION...

ASCLS-SD

Stacie Lansink, Editor



**Do not be a slow CATERPILLAR!!!
SPRING INTO ASCLS!**

