



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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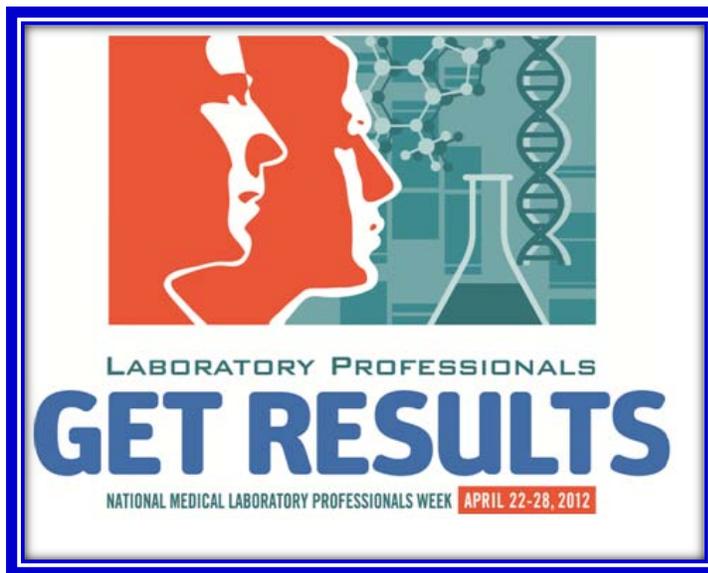
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VOLUSION...ASCLS-SD is published quarterly and is made available to all ASCLS SD members in electronic format. The current issue and past issues will also be available for on-line viewing on the Society's web page: www.ascls-sd.org The co-editors reserve 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.

Celebrate NMLPW 2012!



By: Deb Pravecek, ASCLS-SD Past-President & Promotion of the Profession Task Force Co-Chair

National Laboratory Professionals Week (NLPW) is celebrated yearly during the last week of April. This year the dates for this celebration are April 22-28, 2012. NLPW is celebrated to honor the professionals who have chosen this profession as their career and to highlight the many and diverse ways that laboratory professionals contribute to the betterment of patient care.

NMLPW was first celebrated in 1975 as National Medical Laboratory Week and was sponsored by the American Society for Medical Technology (ASMT), which is now the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). Since 1975 several important changes have occurred in the celebration. Many laboratory professional organizations are now cosponsors of the event. But perhaps the most significant change was the change in name from National Medical Laboratory Week to National Laboratory **Professionals** Week. The addition of this one word changed the focus of the celebration to the individuals who have such a vital role in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.

This is our opportunity to spread the word to the public and other health care workers about the professionals who produce the test results that physicians depend on. We need to seize this opportunity. Many years ago I was told by a laboratory director that we should not celebrate or promote "Lab Week" because it was not professional to "toot our own horn". I vehemently disagreed then and vehemently disagree today. If we do not promote ourselves, we will never receive the recognition we deserve. Awareness of our profession has grown in recent years, thanks to events like NMLPW. All clinical laboratory professionals should take this time to educate others on the services provided by clinical laboratory professionals and the laboratory profession as a whole and to make our profession known to all as one that truly does provide quality services.



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Let us know the exciting ways you are celebrating National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week. Share the creative, fun, unique, or exciting events, recognitions, prizes, or activities taking place in your laboratory. The Promotion of the Profession Task Force will be asking Governor Dennis Daugaard to sign a Proclamation declaring April 22-28th as Medical Laboratory Professionals Week in the state of South Dakota. Additional ideas can be found on the ASCLS website at www.ascls.org/?NMLPWideas



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President's Message: Commitment, Vision, Action

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS-SD President 2011-12

March 2012 is more than just the month of shamrocks and leprechauns. It is more than just starting to think spring and summer. March 2012 means we are three-fourths into our ASCLS year and time to think about our accomplishments and reflect on how those accomplishments happen so at the end of the year we can say, "It was an excellent year for our members, our profession and ASCLS."



ASCLS-SD's accomplishments have been many and all have come to fruition only through the dedication, commitment and vision of our members which brings me to reflect on one of my favorite quotes:

Commitment unlocks the doors of imagination, allows vision, and gives us the "right stuff" to turn our dreams into reality. -James Womack

Commitment - The commitment of ASCLS members is awesome and powerful. Our members do not just say they will do something, they come together and 'just do it'. Through collaboration and working together, they make what could be ordinary meetings, projects and tasks extraordinary outcomes which allow our societal and professional dreams turn into reality.

Commitment is evident in all actions taken by our Board of Directors, Spring & Fall Meeting Committees, Scientific Assembly and Committee Chairs, and Strategic Action Task Forces. Each group and each member serving perseveres until the goal is reached. Through their commitment, time is not wasted on whining or complaining or seeking to find blame like we sometimes witness in our facilities or from our co-workers. ASCLS members, as true healthcare professionals, adjust to reality, do what is needed for as long as needed to move forward and get the job done.

Vision & Imagination - I have been a practicing clinical laboratory professional and an ASCLS member for almost 38 years... yep, that's maybe why I laugh about 'gray hair moments' and trying to assess if 'all my wrinkles are in the right places'. In those 38 years I have witnessed less than optimal times for our profession and have seen chaos in healthcare. All of this has not impacted my professional passion, pride or my belief that what we do is important to health care and the patients we serve.





**Your Premiere Websites!
Visit Them Often!**



ASCLS-SD
www.ascls-sd.org



ASCLS Region V
www.ascls-sd.org/asclsregionv



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



ASCLS
www.ascls.org



**COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
MORE INFO TO BE AVAILABLE SOON!**



I have been professionally blessed to be a part of ASCLS's and ASCLS-SD's vision. The vision and imagination of ASCLS members and leaders is powerful. Through our imagination and visualizing what needs to be done, we do it! Even if we suffer setbacks along the way, we come together, decide how to change our path, and remember that together our combined vision, imagination and taking action allows us to climb the mountains that lay before us.

Action - If you start having mixed feelings about your profession or its professional worth, it's time to take action. It's time to invest in yourself personally and professionally. Attend professional meetings, get involved in ASCLS at the state, regional or national levels. By getting professionally involved you enrich your life, you surround yourself with professionals who recognize and cherish your talents and know that you make a difference. ASCLS is there for its members and gives us the tools to succeed and become all that we can be. We must remember that even with tools and support, the magic will only happen if each of us is willing to take action!

"Our professional life will be no better than the plans we make and the actions we take. We are the architect and builder of our own life, fortune, destiny."



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Region V Director's Message: What's New in Region V?

By: Deb Rodahl, ASCLS Region V Director

Region V has an amazing group of very dedicated, talented, and giving ASCLS members. Whenever there is a challenge or a need, ASCLS members step up to "make it happen".

Continuing Education: Region V has a long standing history of providing top-notch state meetings as well as the bi-annual Tri-State meeting. 5 years ago the Region V President's Council appointed a task force to evaluate the Tri-State meeting and to determine how to revamp it for the future. From that discussion the annual Region V Symposium was born. With the 2004 laboratory certification change requiring on-going continuing education, the task force felt it was important to look to providing more opportunities for continuing



education. It was further determined that creating an annual meeting to be held the same time each fall would complement the Spring meetings held in the states. From the success of the first Region V Symposium held in Rochester, MN came the idea to create a "Destination" meeting where the Symposium can be held in the same location every year. Many Region V members have helped develop and implement the vision with our first 2 meetings, but a lot of credit goes to Lezlee Koch, who was instrumental in creating the vision, the theme, and the structure, as well as the tools that make it easy for committee members to follow

each year. The 2012 Region V Symposium will be held in Alexandria, MN at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center. This move will provide an opportunity to hold our meeting in a more resort-like setting. Come for the meeting, stay for the fun (Social Networking)!

Leadership Development: Several years ago, ASCLS created a Leadership Academy with the goal of providing an opportunity for ASCLS members to receive training that would help develop them into future leaders. The leadership Academy encompasses a full year of education and activities that include 3 face-to-face meetings supplemented with monthly conference calls. This is a great opportunity for ASCLS members; however the limited number



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of "slots" open to a large pool of applicants from across the country reduces the opportunity for Region V members to participate. Seeing the challenge and opportunity, a group of Region V members have come together to begin development of a Leadership Academy concept that would be available to Region V members and held within Region V. This will increase the "opportunity" in a cost-effective format. A special thanks to previous Leadership Academy graduates Shannon Jongeward, Jessica Peters, and Charlotte Romain for helping guide the development of this program. Additional thanks to JoAnn Nickles, Jean Bauer, Lezlee Koch, Dawn Michelson, Tracy Roth, Susan Lopez, Alice Hawley, Lori Hemish, and Jeanette Putnam.

Legislative Visibility: One of the greatest challenges in today's legislative arena is trying to get your voice heard in amongst all the other voices and craziness that has become our national politics. ASCLS has been at the forefront of laboratory organizations within the legislative arena. The ASCLS Legislative Symposium creates an opportunity for laboratorians to visit the Washington, DC offices of their congressional representatives. Region V has an amazing number of attendees at this event every year including many students who get an opportunity to see and learn about the legislative process first hand. Region V is also active in their individual states local governance in areas such as licensure and/or education of the state legislators.



Region V members understand the "challenge" and the importance of the "need". Working together we can "make it happen"!

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 (651)779.8906



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Membership Update: 2012 M-G-M (Member Get a Member) Campaign!

2011-12 Membership Committee & Task Force

From March 2012 until June 30, 2012, ASCLS-SD will be having a membership recruitment campaign. This year's campaign will include two levels of eligibility to win prizes!



For each Professional (PF1 or PF2) member that you recruit, you will get your name placed in a drawing. The more members you recruit, the more chances you have to be a winner! At the end of the recruitment period we will be drawing for 2 prizes:

- Paid registration to the 2012 ASCLS-SD/CLMA Fall Conference in Aberdeen, SD
- Paid ASCLS membership dues (PF1 or PF2) for 1 year

Host a membership recruitment activity where you provide information on ASCLS membership & benefits to co-workers or laboratory professionals in your area and your name will be placed in a drawing for prizes.

Watch your email for the 2012 M-G-M Campaign & Contest Information! Start thinking about hosting a recruitment activity or professionals you can recruit!



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**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>



ASCLS-SD Annual Spring Meeting - Plan on Attending!



American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science - South Dakota

“Spring Symposium” - Friday, April 13th 2012
“Education, Professional Updates & Networking!”

South Dakota State University Campus
Student Union Room 0169
Brookings, South Dakota



Come one, come all to this year's ASCLS-SD Spring Meeting in Brookings, SD! Our meeting chair, Patricia Tille extends a warm invitation to all ASCLS-SD Members! This year's meeting will again offer continuing education, annual member recognition, time for networking and our annual business meeting with election of 2012-13 society officers.

Continuing education topics will include:

- ★ Motivating Change in the Laboratory
- ★ Jaundice in a 16-hr-old infant
- ★ Professional Issues
- ★ Lessons Learned from a Virus: PHL H1N1
- ★ COPD to Renal Failure

A copy of the registration flyer is attached to this issue or you may download additional copies from our ASCLS-SD website by visiting: [ASCLS-SD Events & Meetings](#)

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Student Forum Activities Update

By: Richard Kipena, ASCLS-SD Student Forum Representative 2011-12

Student involvement in ASCLS has continued to grow over the past few months, with several students becoming members and many providing feedback from the Fall Collaborative Conference sessions. As I surveyed peers from South Dakota State University's MLS Program, I received a couple of comments that I thought would be excellent to follow up on for future events. One of the ideas that was presented to me was to have a "job fair" at the Fall Collaborative Conference or Spring Symposium. I personally liked the idea of having recruiters present at the one day conference in the spring, as that would be when a majority of students would be seeking employment upon graduation in the months following. Due to the format of this year's Spring Meeting, we will not be able to have a job fair this year, but we will look at the possibility for next year.

The New Professional/Student Task Force is currently working on scholarship fundraisers for student members of ASCLS. We have several Pizza Hut locations set up for a fundraiser lunch/dinner buffet (in Brookings, Vermillion, Sioux Falls, and Rapid City) and part of the proceeds will support funding for student scholarships. ASCLS-SD awards two \$1000 scholarships; student members are encouraged to apply for these scholarships. In addition to the Pizza Hut fundraiser, we are hoping to have another fundraiser that will be held during the Spring Symposium.

If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or updates, please do not hesitate to contact me at richard.kipena@sdstate.edu. Thanks!

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EVENT



CALENDAR

**ASCLS-SD 1-Day
Spring Symposium
& Annual Meeting**

April 13, 2012
Brookings SD

www.ascls-sd.org/id4.html



**2012 ASCLS
Annual Meeting**

July 17-21 Los Angeles

[www.ascls.org/?page=Annual
Meeting](http://www.ascls.org/?page=AnnualMeeting)



**ASCLS Region V
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

Immunology Scientific Assembly: Our Awesome Immune System!

By: Alison Albertson, ASCLS-SD Immunology Scientific Assembly Chair 2011-12

At this time every year, I have the opportunity to share with my first year MLT students how incredibly awesome our immune systems are. I think it is mind-boggling to learn about all our immune systems do and that we are not even aware of most of it!

For instance, we have an enormous supply of T and B lymphocytes, each one genetically different from the other and able to fight one specific antigen. This arsenal of cells has the



ability to fight over 100,000,000 different antigens when (according to the human genome project) we only possess 20,000 to 30,000 different genes. This is accomplished through a genetic rearrangement that occurs in each lymphocyte as it matures. From a long stretch of DNA on two different chromosomes (2 or 22 for the light and 14 for the heavy chains of the antibody in a B lymph), these developing cells select a few

segmented parts of that DNA and discard the rest. This allows each cell to create a unique receptor which will recognize and bind with one particular antigen (with a lock and key fit) and mount an immune response against it when we are exposed.

Once mature, these T and B lymphocytes have different roles. B lymphs produce antibody able to bind to a foreign substance to destroy it. T lymphocytes are made up of CD4 (T helper) cells which protect against intracellular pathogens and activate other cells (such as the B lymphs), CD8 (cytotoxic T) cells can kill virally infected and tumor cells while T regulator cells help to suppress our immune response against self to prevent autoimmunity.

T regulator cells may give us tolerance to foreign stimuli when needed. For instance, they are thought to be the cells that keep a mom from reacting against a fetus she carries, or keep a fetus from rejecting its mom's cells. Amazingly enough, these T and B cells are able to create an adequate supply at a moment's notice as well as make memory cells to remember the invader the next time we are exposed.

Of course none of this would be successful if we did not have cells talking to each other (cytokines). Messages can be from a cell to itself, a cell close by or a cell far away. Some messages call our neutrophils and monocytes to the site of infection for phagocytosis, some create an inflammatory reaction, while others tell the bone marrow to make more cells so we can win the battle. The list of cytokines and their functions is extensive with many more discovered each year!!

I could go on but I think you could agree with me that our immune systems are amazing! I am so fortunate to be able to share and be reminded each year of how awesome our immune systems really are. I am also very thankful that we are so wonderfully made!!

References: Clinical Immunology and Serology by Christine Dorresteyn Stevens, 3rd Edition
Have You Seen Your Mother, Baby.... Science, December 17, 2010



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ASCLS-SD



**Voice, Value,
Vision**

ASCLS-SD

**Proudly
Recognizes
It's New
Members!**



**LeRoy
Clemetson**
Brookings

**Taylor
Hausmann**
Sioux Falls

**Christopher
Thompson**
Watertown

Taylor Zoelle
Brookings



**"Wishing You
A Wondrous
&
Professional
Journey In
ASCLS!"**



Immunoematology Scientific Assembly: Blood for Britain

By: Rebecca Aman, ASCLS-SD Immunoematology Scientific Assembly Chair 2011-12

US blood banks were supplying plasma to Allied troops even before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. In June of 1940 Dr. Alexis Carrel publicized the need for plasma as a treatment for shock in war casualties after returning from France. The idea of shipping plasma to France and England was suggested to the Blood Transfusion Association of New York on June 12, 1940.

Use of plasma was still considered experimental at the time but the trustees of the association felt that enough knowledge was available to justify an effort at mass production. The New York chapter of the Red Cross was enlisted in the effort and on August 15, 1940 the first center opened at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York. The center closed January 17, 1941 after 14,556 donations by volunteer citizen donors. This represented the first effort in the US to collect large amounts of blood from civilians for military use. All of the plasma went the Britain, France having fallen shortly after the June meeting.



Liquid plasma was chosen for processing partly because of the time element and because of the expense of installing drying equipment. Drying equipment of the time was far from satisfactory. The system used for collection was not initially completely closed, however, later contamination rates demonstrated the need for a completely closed system. Plasma was separated by sedimentation or centrifugation. In order to reduce viscosity the plasma was diluted one to one with sterile physiologic saline solution. Merthiolate was added as a preservative for a dilution 1:10,000 in the final plasma-saline mixture. The finished product was shipped in 1000 cc bottles in cartons of six. Larger packages were not possible as the plasma was shipped on Clipper planes.

Before plasma could be dispensed exacting bacteriologic and toxicity controls were necessary. Testing was done in the laboratories of the participating hospitals as well as a central laboratory. When the material reached England, samples from each carton were checked for bacterial contamination before they were released for use. The need for additional testing in England became evident when it was discovered some pools of plasma that were considered sterile within 3-7 days after collection were later found to be contaminated. Once the delayed contamination was discovered, more stringent sterility procedures were put in place.

The organizers of the effort originally thought that collecting blood for the production of plasma would be as easy as "mixing a cocktail". The fallacy of this belief was soon discovered. The efforts involved in the mass production of plasma to be shipped overseas proved to be very different from the collection of limited amounts for local use. The organization involved led to the development of the American Red Cross Donor Service.

Reference: www.pbs.org/wnet/redgold_redcross.html

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**A bird does not sing because it has an answer, it sings because it
has a song. - Proverb**

Let us sing ASCLS from the mountain tops of healthcare!



★ **Medicare New Preventive Services Coverage for STDs - November 2011**

While most people would think that Medicare beneficiaries pose a much reduced risk of contracting STDs, statistics from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) indicate otherwise. In 2011, both groups published some surprising numbers. For instance, in the five years from 2005 to 2009, the number of reported cases of syphilis and chlamydia among those 55 and older increased 43%. Also, in areas that include large numbers of retirement communities such as Florida and Arizona, the numbers are even more surprising. During the same time period, officials in central Florida reported an 87% increase of cases of syphilis and chlamydia among those 55 and older.

★ **CDC Releases New Guidelines on Safety in Medical Laboratories - MMWR January 2012**

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

On behalf of the Student/New Professional Task Force, I would like to thank everyone who participated in our first student scholarship fundraiser last November. With your help we were able to raise approximately \$162. I think that was a very good start! All of you will have another chance to help the scholarship fundraising efforts in April at the spring meeting in Brookings. We will have two great baskets up for raffle. The chances will be \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Your support will be truly appreciated.

As our task force members have been evaluating the needs of new professionals in the state, we have found there is a common concern about continuing education...how and where to get it, what is needed, and how to manage it. It is our intention to address these issues at the fall 2012 ASCLS-SD Conference by offering a session on "Continuing Education".

Our task force has been hearing from our student members as well. Jobs and job prospects are very much on their minds. We will be looking at ways to get job announcements to our members. If you have an open slot at your facility or know of one coming in the future, please share the information with one of the task force members or ASCLS-SD Board of Directors. Remember many well-prepared laboratory students will be graduating in May.

I would like to remind all members of ASCLS-SD, if you have any projects or ideas that you feel the Student/New Professional Task Force can help with, please let one of our members know. And, if you would like to join our group, contact anyone of our members. You are always welcome. The S/NP members are Jennifer Bannwarth, Stephanie Bonertz, Richard Kipena, Sarah Leader, Tracy Roth, Renee Rydell, Cole Weaver, and Kay Rasmussen.



Promotion of the Profession Task Force

By: Deb Pravecek, ASCLS-SD Past President & Task Force Co-Chair

The Promotion of the Profession Task Force continues with their efforts to promote our profession! Activities that have been completed or are in process are:

- A copy of the VOLUSION was sent to each member of the South Dakota Legislature.
- Governor Dennis Daugaard will be asked to sign a Proclamation for Recognition of April 22-28, 2012 as Medical Laboratory Professionals Week in South Dakota.



Leadership Development Task Force

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

Members of the Leadership Development Task Force include: Lezlee Koch, Susan Lopez, Lori Hemish, and Tracy Roth. The main project being worked on is the potential production of a tri-state (MN, ND, SD)collaborative Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy is being designed to prepare our ASCLS members for current and future leadership roles in our organization, in the profession and in the workplace by providing a structured program of study of critical leadership topics. Current activities of the tri-state Leadership Academy workgroup include development of:

- Mission and vision
- Marketing information and candidate selection guidelines
- Program educational content and schedule

The new report offers guidance and recommends biosafety practices specifically for diagnostic laboratories and is intended to supplement the fifth edition of *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*. The document was not written to replace the existing biosafety guidelines but to improve safety activities, encourage laboratory workers to think about safety issues and to encourage laboratorians to create and foster a culture of safety in their laboratories. (Document was distributed to ASCLS-SD members in an information sharing email)

★ **2013 Medicare Fees to be Cut 2% to Pay for Physician Fee Fix & Pathology Grandfather TC Phase Out (July 1)**

The laboratory industry will need to keep vigilant watch on Medicare cuts to the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule and the July 1 phase out of pathology TC (technical component) direct billing to Medicare. Both of these will impact laboratory bottom lines!



EYE ON GOVERNMENT

Membership Development Task Force

By: Mona Gleysteen, ASCLS-SD Past President & Task Force Chair

The Membership Development Task Force has been working on a special spring recruitment contest (M-G-M Campaign - see pg 4) and is working on the revision of our ASCLS-SD Membership Handbook. When the handbook project is complete, it will be sent to all current ASCLS-SD members and will be posted on our webpage. The Task Force will also be working on membership retention and promoting the professional importance of renewing membership in ASCLS.



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Regulatory, Quality Management, Patient Safety Scientific Assembly: CLIA Personnel Requirements - Let's Be Honest!

By: Lori Murray, ASCLS-SD Immunohematology Scientific Assembly Chair 2011-12

With talk of a workforce shortage as we see baby boomers retiring, it is important that you thoroughly evaluate current staff and new hires against the CLIA requirement for the position they will fill in your laboratory.

CLIA requires that only qualified personnel be used to perform or supervise testing. Subpart M sections 493.1351 through 493.1495 of the CLIA Interpretive Guidelines, covers Moderate complexity, PPM and High complexity laboratories. Personnel standards outlined include:

- ★ Laboratory Director
- ★ Clinical Consultant
- ★ Technical Consultant or Supervisor
- ★ General Supervisor
- ★ Testing personnel
- ★ Cytology

Laboratories performing moderately complex testing must list who performs the following functions in the laboratory;

- ★ Laboratory Director (LD)
- ★ Clinical Consultant (CC); must be an MD, DO or DPM
- ★ Technical Consultant (TC)
- ★ Testing Personnel (TP)

Laboratories performing high complexity tests must list who performs the following functions in the laboratory;

- ★ Laboratory Director (LD)
- ★ Clinical Consultant (CC); must be an MD, DO or DPM
- ★ Technical Supervisor (TS) for each specialty (e.g. hematology, chemistry)
- ★ General Supervisor (GS)
- ★ Testing Personnel (TP)

Typically during an accreditation survey, all required positions are reviewed to make sure that appropriate documentation is on file. If a Laboratory Director change occurs, the accrediting agency must be notified within 30 days of the change. Documentation of testing personnel qualifications, to include diplomas, transcripts, training and competency assessments, must be maintained by the laboratory. Phlebotomists, clerks, and other pre-analytical staff who are not testing staff are not reviewed. Agency evaluations, national certification certificates, and nursing home licenses alone are not acceptable forms of verification of education, except for foreign credentialing equivalency purposes. Even if

Government Affairs Update: 2012 Legislative Symposium



Joining in on an ASCLS tradition since 1989; ASCLS, CLMA, ASCP and AMT members will meet their Representatives and Senators on Capitol Hill in a unified front on behalf of our profession. The 2012 Legislative Symposium will be held from March 19–20, Washington, D.C.

Attendees this year include: Tanya Crockett ASCLS-SD GAC, Shirley Heber ASCLS-SD 2nd Vice President, Stephanie Bonertz ASCLS-SD New Professional, and Richard Kipena ASCLS-SD Student Forum. We will be attending briefings and seminars of the below listed topics during the 2 day symposium:

- ★ Medicare Reimbursement, Bundling
- ★ Personnel Shortage
- ★ Co-Payments, Fee Schedule Cuts
- ★ DOL/HRSA Allied Health Initiatives

Please see the next newsletter issue for complete reports from your 2012 Legislative Symposium Reps.

certification is required by CLIA (ie: Cytotech), degrees and transcripts are still required.

Over the past year, accrediting agencies have found over one hundred falsified education records. It has been identified that individuals can download qualifications from the Web, and have used them to fraudulently obtain CLIA certificates. ASCP has also discovered individuals who submitted false credentials for their certification. Thus, surveyors must evaluate personnel credentials, and do so consistently.

There is great risk for CLIA laboratories and patients in the event that a laboratory employs an unqualified individual in a regulated position and quality issues are also identified. Three years of data show that unqualified personnel comprise 20% of survey citations. Some examples that have been identified include:

- ★ A laboratory with multiple and consecutive proficiency testing failures had testing personnel with falsified HEW cards.
- ★ Offshore operations have been identified that do upgrades on degrees for a fee, diploma mills, and quickie degrees. Some of the quality issues identified include
 - Testing personnel not following manufacturer instructions for intended use, testing males for GC/Chlamydia with endocervical only test kits, and finding staff with only 10th grade high school education
 - Microbiology testing being performed by unqualified staff
 - VA system has discovered falsified degrees
 - Shell labs employing testing personnel without HS degree or GED
 - Physician's son performing testing and did not have a HS degree
 - No foreign equivalency check done

This type of fraudulence impacts a facility's credibility and re-approval. Patients can be hurt by these practices, and Medicare and Medicaid have been defrauded of significant sums of money.



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ASCLS-SD Spotlights: 2012-13 Candidates for ASCLS-SD Elected Positions

ASCLS-SD proudly salutes this year's candidates! Elections will be held during the 1-day Spring Meeting in Brookings, SD on April 13th! (Candidate information on following pgs)

President – Robert Jenson, Watertown SD

1st Vice President – Shirley Heber, Sioux Falls SD

2nd Vice President – Patricia Tille, Sioux Falls SD

Board Member at Large – 1 position Kay Rasmussen, Vermillion SD

New Professional Member at Large – 1 position Stephanie Bonertz, Laurel NE

Nominations Committee – 2 positions

Jeffrey Kistler, Dell Rapids SD Deb Pravecek, Freeman SD

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President: Robert Jenson, Watertown SD

- **ASCLS member since 1984**
- **Society participation:** 1st and 2nd Vice President; Newsletter editor for several years; Region V Meeting Exhibitor Chair 2009; State meeting committee member and exhibitor chair; Legislative Symposium representative; National meeting delegate.

- **Current employment:** Laboratory Director/Manager, Prairie Lakes Healthcare System, Watertown SD
- **Professional Views:** Each individual is put on this planet to make a difference. You must have a passion for your chosen vocation. This passion not only pushes you to your best but gives you a thirst for knowledge and the passing along of this knowledge. My goal is to bring the medical laboratory professional out of the background and make it an equal player on the healthcare team.

We currently are a part of healthcare. We need to be a partner in healthcare. This is not for professional or individual glory but to ensure the consumer gets a value added benefit from their experience. All the healthcare partners need to contribute to a positive out-come that is of high quality, good practice and cost effective.

This begins with equal respect and fluid communication between all partners. We need to assert ourselves and not be afraid of speaking up and out to make our voices heard. To advocate for better healthcare delivery models. These goals are not achieved by one person. When we are asked to participate we must not be afraid to dig into opportunities we might have shied away from earlier in our careers.



1st Vice President: Shirley Heber, Sioux Falls SD

- **ASCLS member since 2005**
- **Society participation:** 2nd Vice President; Secretary/Treasurer; State and Region V Meetings committee member; Publications committee; Government Affairs Chair; Legislative Symposium representative; National meeting delegate; Consultant SA Chair

- **Current employment:** Laboratory Outreach Consultant, Avera McKennan Regional Laboratory, Sioux Falls.
- **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.



2nd Vice President: Patricia Tille, Sioux Falls SD

- **ASCLS member since 1992**
- **Society participation:** ASCLS-SD Past President; President 2 terms; Student Forum Rep; Region V Student Forum; PACE Coordinator; SA Chair multiple years Microbiology and Molecular; State, National, Regional Meeting committees and speaker; National ASCLS Today co-editor, Awards committee, Molecular SA Chair, SA Co-coordinator, Geriatrics Position Paper Task Force

- **Current employment:** MLS Program Director, South Dakota State University, Brookings SD
- **Professional Views:** During my experience as a student forum representative, state president, and National Leadership I have maintained that everyone within the profession is a valuable asset. Sometimes as laboratory professionals we do not realize our full potential. As I have in the past, I would continue to reach out to professionals in our region and help others realize their potential for personal and professional growth. I think we need to look at new ways to provide the public with information about who the

laboratory professionals are, but I also think as a society we need to strengthen our services and opportunities for interaction through collaborative efforts. Many individuals within our own region are talented, and can share with others as well as participate in professional activities such as publishing or simply providing guidance on a new technique. We need to help make those connections and provide strong mentoring for continued growth within the profession. Finally with the changes and consolidations in professional societies, I would continue to work to help our constituents understand the changes associated with the ASCP/NCA merger, as well as the potential merger of CLMA/ASCLS. I would work within both memberships to provide an equitable and respected transition and opportunity for growth.



Board Member-at-Large – 1 Position Open (2 year term)

Kay Rasmussen, Vermillion SD

- **ASCLS member since 1984**

- **Society participation:** ASCLS-SD Board Member-at Large 2010-12; Student/New Professional Task Force Co-Chair; Attended numerous state meetings, Region V meeting 2009; Past Education SA Chair.
- **Current employment:** MLS Academic Director, University of South Dakota, Vermillion SD
- **Professional Views:** A person is always told to find a career that makes you happy. I consider myself to be one of those that did exactly that. I found the career of Medical Laboratory Science. It is a profession with many avenues of opportunities. Wherever the MLS career has taken a person: research, hospital, or education; each area is important in providing quality healthcare to the population. As for myself being in the field of education, I am excited to think I get to start the next generation of Medical Laboratory Scientists on their way. It's important to me to share my experiences with them in order to let them know about the excitement a MLS career can provide.

My current term as a Board Member at Large has only increased my awareness of wanting to promote our profession. Important changes have come to the laboratory over the past few years and I am sure, as all of us are, this is not the time to stop watching out for our members. I would like to continue to be an active part of ASCLS-SD making sure our group continues to grow, prosper, and ensure our "voice" is heard.



New Professional Member-at-Large

Stephanie Bonertz, Laurel NE

- **ASCLS member since 2008**

- **Society participation:** ASCLS-SD New Professional Member-at-Large; POC/Phlebotomy SA Chair; Student/New Professional Task Force Co-Chair; Membership Development Task Force member; ASCLS Region V Meeting Committee; ASCLS Meeting Delegate; National Leadership Development Committee member; Legislative Symposium Rep; Attended multiple state, regional meetings

- **Current employment:** Medical Laboratory Scientist, Providence Medical Center, Wayne NE; PRN Sanford Vermillion SD
- **Professional Views:** My goals if I am elected for office will be to help promote ASCLS to all Medical laboratory professionals, encourage new members become more involved with ASCLS, and assist in converting student members to First Year Professional members. I believe promoting ASCLS to the general public and especially to Medical Laboratory professionals is a great way to get our voice heard by non-members and maybe some members. I personally found out about ASCLS by one of my professors in college, she told me it is a great society to be apart of. I looked into ASCLS by visiting their website and I was getting excited to see what this organization does for my profession. I know there are many educators in ASCLS that promote the society, but we might be missing some MLS programs that have not heard of ASCLS. I also believe that sometimes a face to face meeting with students to tell them all about ASCLS is a great way to have a personal connection. If I am elected I will listen to all members ideas and present them to the board to help the members enjoy being apart of ASCLS.

Nominations Committee – 2 Positions Open (1 year term)



Jeffrey Kistler, Dell Rapids SD

- **ASCLS member since 1994**

- **Society participation:** Nominations Committee 2011-12; Board Member-at-Large 1999; Attended numerous state, regional and national meetings.

- **Current employment:** Laboratory Consultant, Cardinal Health

➤ **Professional Views:** My philosophy is to educate the public about the laboratory. I also believe in supporting our ASCLS-SD as this organization has provided me with continuing education and several opportunities to network. I believe that we need to spend more time educating the public on our field to ensure that we have a graduating population with the education to keep our laboratories competent. I also believe that we need a State License to ensure that our laboratories have competent individuals performing laboratory testing.



Deb Pravecek, Freeman SD

➤ **ASCLS member since 1984**

➤ **Society participation:** Past President; President; 1st and 2nd Vice President; Promotion of Profession Task Force Co-Chair; ASCLS-SD and Region V Secretary/Treasurer; Membership Task Force member; Membership Chair; PAC Chair; Meeting committee member multiple years; National meeting Delegate multiple years

➤ **Current employment:** Retired

Professional Views: As laboratory professionals we have an obligation to be active in a professional society. I have chosen the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science because I think it does the most for promotion of our professional at the grassroots level. I have gained so much from my membership in this society. Involvement in ASCLS has been a major reason that I am still passionate about this profession even in retirement. I have made many professional friends who have given me the confidence to extent myself outside of my comfort zone.

I think that the Nominations Committee is so important. It is vital that we get qualified people to serve in our various society positions.

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Spring Word Search - Just for the Fun of It!

By: Becky Aman



E	A	S	T	E	R	B	U	N	N	Y	D
G	W	P	I	U	M	O	E	Z	C	L	A
G	C	W	I	C	L	N	K	M	I	K	F
H	R	O	F	H	A	N	W	A	D	R	F
U	O	D	U	W	M	E	T	Y	G	E	O
N	C	S	D	U	B	T	A	F	L	Y	D
T	U	L	I	P	S	S	V	L	Y	B	I
B	S	S	U	L	O	S	H	O	I	E	L
A	P	R	I	L	S	H	O	W	E	R	S
I	S	P	R	I	N	G	S	E	G	G	P
F	N	O	U	Q	S	L	W	R	G	Z	Q
G	R	E	E	N	G	R	A	S	S	O	U

EASTER BUNNY	EGG HUNT	GREEN GRASS	MAY FLOWERS
TULIPS	CROCUS	LAMBS	
DAFFODILS	BUDS	BONNETS	
EGGS	SPRING	APRIL SHOWERS	