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Summer 2022
Issue 1, Vol. 10

American Society for Clinical
Laboratory Sciences Oregon Chapter
Newsletter
The Centrifuge



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Special Interest
Articles:

- ASCLS Code of Ethics for Patient-Centered Care
- The Four-Frame Model of Medical Laboratory Science

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**Laura's Legacy: Continuing the Progress
of ASCLS in Oregon by Katrina Holcomb**

I would like to thank you, the reader, for listening in to our inaugural issue of the revamped Centrifuge! We will try our best to offer laboratories a regular newsletter, so I hope you are willing to share this with your lab. ASCLS may provide valuable resources for both novice and experienced professionals. Exhausted? There are seminars dedicated to this! Curious about new technologies and methods? You need to look no further! Want to acquire leadership abilities? Consider the ASCLS leadership academy! There are several opportunities to advance your career and laboratory experience. I am thrilled to begin this new year as the president of ASCLS-OR, and I hope that you will join me as we navigate yet another year of a worldwide epidemic. Thank you for your hard work and commitment; I am very impressed by the persevering attitude of laboratorians, particularly in these difficult times. **Continued on Page 2**



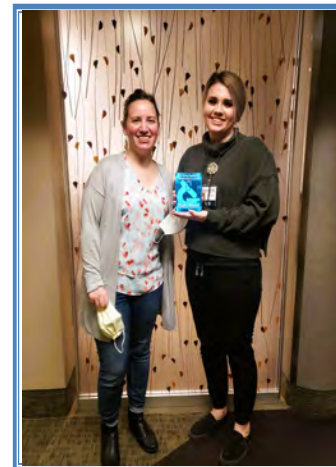
ASCLS Oregon board members are all smiles in April 2022 as they award Afrah Ahmed with the Betsy Baptist scholarship on the campus of Oregon Institute of Technology in Wilsonville, Oregon. President-Elect Katrina Holcomb, Afrah Ahmed, and President Laura Sage, from left to right.

Laura's Legacy: Continuing the Progress of ASCLS in Oregon. Continued from Page 2

ASCLS Oregon has continued to develop and flourish under Laura Sage's leadership in 2021. I want to express my gratitude for her hard work and dedication to the ASCLS professional association. I met Laura at the 2019 ASCLS Annual Meeting in Charlotte, NC, where she helped me understand the organization's structure. Laura's encouragement to attend educational sessions and pursue professional activities was crucial to my choice to join ASCLS. She advised me on how to get involved, including legislative lobbying, joining national committees, state board roles, and organizing educational events.

Laura is a remarkable woman; her grounded vitality and organizational skills make her a great scientist and leader. This year, I intend to make her proud by following in her footsteps and assisting the medical laboratory personnel in Oregon. This year, I want to sustain this inclusive and accessible culture. The epidemic and consequent staffing constraints have highlighted the need to assist our present laboratory personnel. Providing chances for laboratory professionals to meet, learn, and support one another is simply the beginning of ASCLS's objectives. In addition to advocating against budget cuts, awarding scholarships to students, and conducting educational seminars, we wish to promote good improvements for labs and schools. Help us make a difference. **Join ASCLS!**

In April 2022, Kylie Woods is awarded the Betsy Baptist support scholarship for a career in laboratory science at Santiam Hospital. Awesome Work! From left to right, President Laura Sage and Kylie Woods.



Valentina Cingel is smiling with joy in April 2022, after receiving the Betsy Baptist and Alpha Mu Tau scholarship. Excellent Job! From left to right, President-Elect Katrina Holcomb and Valentina Cingel.



Betsy Baptist Scholarships for Laboratory Scientists: The 2022 Winners!

Betsy Baptist, a renowned speaker and specialist in Laboratory Science launched a scholarship fund in 2012 to assist future laboratory scientists in achieving their career goals. Because the candidates were equally qualified, dividing the available monies and granting \$2,500 to each applicant was decided. These are the recipients of the ASCLS-OR sponsored scholarships:

MLT Category: Kylie Woods

MLS Category: Afrah Ahmed & Valentina Cingel

Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity (AMTF) Scholarships to Medical Laboratory Science Students (MLS):

Achieving a National Goal

In 2022, two of the nineteen AMTF scholarships by ASCLS were awarded to MLS students at Oregon Institute of Technology. We are incredibly proud of the achievements!

Rosey Le received the \$3000 Reily Scholarship.

Valentina Cingel received a \$2,000 AMTF scholarship for graduate/undergraduate education at full-time status.

ASCLS Code of Ethics for Patient-Centered Care by Susan Runyan, MLS(ASCP)^{cm}

Hippocrates' students swore an oath to the healing gods of the ancient Greek Pantheon, Apollo, Asclepius, Hygeia, and Panacea, signifying a dedication to medical ethics and patient-centered care.¹ Specifically, the Hippocratic Oath contains "I shall keep to myself," indicating that confidentiality between the healthcare professional and patient is crucial to therapy.² Today, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 requires healthcare professionals to maintain "patient/client confidentiality" by adhering to stringent requirements, particularly when discussing and exchanging protected health information.³ Following the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) Code of Ethics, laboratory personnel must maintain the confidentiality of patient information and test results, preventing breaches of trust proactively.⁴ According to the ASCLS Code of Ethics, we must demonstrate "sound judgment" in all laboratory disciplines and, above all, protect patients from the "incompetent" or "illegal" conduct of others.⁴

The ASCLS Code of Ethics and the Hippocratic Oath preserve patient confidentiality in all interactions between medical workers and patients.^{2,4} In addition, the ASCLS Code of Ethics outlines the obligations of modern healthcare laboratory personnel to protect the privacy of medical information and test findings.⁴ However, a recent review of the Hippocratic Oath's applicability in contemporary psychiatry reveals that it clashes with current standards of care.¹ In cases of child sexual abuse, stringent adherence to the Hippocratic Oath to ensure secrecy may result in a conviction for concealment.¹ In 1973, the United States Supreme Court rejected the Hippocratic Oath as a guide for medical ethics and practice, concluding that the oath cannot address the most current medical discoveries and cures.¹

As laboratory technology advances, it is easy to forget that we are all accountable for the health of our patients. Like the Hippocratic Oath, many ASCLS Code of Ethics provisions may become outdated due to environmental and technological improvements. As leaders, we must constantly investigate and assess new advancements in medical ethics and advocate for ethical behavior that enhances patient-centered care.

References:

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2. Stanford CC, Connor VJ. Applied law and ethics for health professionals. Burlington, MA, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning; 2020
3. Peregrin T. Managing HIPAA Compliance Includes Legal and Ethical Considerations. *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2021 Feb;121(2):327-329. doi: 10.1016/j.jand.2020.11.012. PMID: 33487218.
4. Code of ethics [Internet]. ASCLS. 2021 [cited 2022 May 25]. Available from: <https://ascls.org/code-of-ethics/>



Examine the ASCLS Code of Ethics. Click the image below.



Click the image to see what MLT positions are open at PCC right now.

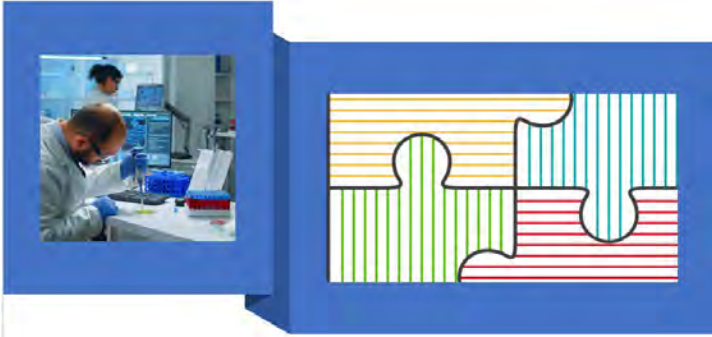


PCC MLT Program Update by Sam Hale, MLT(ASCP)



COVID has had a large impact on laboratories and lab programs all over the world. Portland Community College's Medical Laboratory Technology program was no exception. The program had to take a year-long hiatus in 2020 and was not able to accept a new cohort. The year 2021 brought another issue for the program as two full time staff members sought out other opportunities. This left the program with one full time staff member, Erin Krauter. Due to the staffing shortage, PCC was only able to accept 15 students for their 2021 cohort. ASCLS would like to recognize the program's single full time staff member, Erin Krauter. Despite all the difficulties, Erin remains committed to ensuring the successful graduation of the 2021 cohort. As a past student and recent COVID graduate, I would like to send a personal thank you to Erin for her continued hard work. Erin is one of the hardest working people I have ever met, and I am grateful to have had her as an instructor. We thank Erin for staying and ensuring that this cohort graduates on time.

Unfortunately, there will not be a 2022 cohort due to the current staffing shortages. We hope to have more updates on PCC's program in the next issue of the centrifuge.



The Four-Frame Model of Medical Laboratory Science
 by Susan Runyan, MLS(ASCP)^{cm}

The four-frame leadership model increases understanding by observing challenges, promoting a clear judgment of perspectives to a situation, requiring more thinking to solve problems associated with an organization's success.¹ The overview of the viewpoint consists of structural, human resources, political and symbolic frames that can apply to a wide variety of issues affecting clinical laboratories.¹ There is much ambiguity in today's changing laboratory environment, as budget cuts may weaken the laboratory's structure. For example, the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) reports that the United States federal agency, known as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), is ready to drastically reduce reimbursement rates, affecting hundreds of laboratory tests.² Physicians use these tests to diagnose common diseases and diseases that affect elderly citizens. Therefore, our most vulnerable population and the laboratories themselves will suffer unless Congress stops these cuts before 2022.

With the four-frame model, a sense of urgency to promote and publish stories of laboratory professionals making a real difference occurs by stepping back and looking at the big picture.¹

"As the editor of the ASCLS Centrifuge for the State of Oregon, a human resource frame implores input from our ASCLS state representatives to speak on our behalf, taking as many meetings as possible with our state senators. Publishing articles that highlight these achievements build new alliances with our ASCLS members to disperse opposition in the political frame. Finally, re-framing human resources with political commentary encourages others to use their own stories as symbols to prevent these drastic cuts from affecting real people."

More than ever, a potential research project to evaluate using the four-frame leadership model in the clinical laboratory with the effect of these cuts is necessary as leaders and managers face impossible decisions. Developing questionnaires to address how these cuts could affect laboratory operations would be helpful to congressional leaders as they make these decisions affecting future generations. We must act effectively in these uncertain times and use data to manage how human resources and political frames overlap with the laboratory structure, unlike in the education system where they do not.³

References:
 1. Northouse PG. Leadership: Theory and Practice, Ninth Edition. [Text]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishing; 2022.
 2. The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. Take Action to Delay Disastrous Medicare Cuts to Clinical Laboratories. [Internet]. [Cited 2021 Nov 29]. Available from: <https://ascls.org/delay-cuts/>
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Upcoming Education Events

JAM (Annual Meeting) June 26-30 Grand Rapids Michigan

Representatives from all local constituent organizations attend the gathering, culminating in a Delegates' meeting when decisions affecting the Professional Organization are decided. If you are interested in learning more about the Professional Organization, you should attend this meeting. This conference collaborates with ASCLS, AGT, and SAFMLS and offers the most significant number of CE chances.



Register now by clicking the image and entering your information.

JAM	June 26-30, 2022	Grand Rapids, Michigan
Leg Day	September 26-27, 2022	Alexandria Virginia
NWMLS	October 12-14, 2022	Virtual
ELMC2	January 20-21, 2023	Virtual
CLEC	March 2-4, 2023	New Orleans, Louisiana
Joint Spring Seminar	April TBA 2023	Virtual



2022 Virtual Joint Spring Seminar

by Leonard Kargacin, ASCLS-WA, Chair 2022 Virtual Joint Spring Seminar

The 2022 Virtual Joint Spring Seminar was held on April 20-22, 2022. The meeting provided 18 one-hour continuing education sessions for participants covering all laboratory disciplines. P.A.C.E. credits were available to help laboratorians meet their CE requirements.

Background: In 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions, the ASCLS Alaska, Oregon, and Washington state societies had to cancel their planned in-person Spring Seminars. It was decided that it would be a service to our membership and the laboratory community as a whole to continue to offer laboratory continuing education opportunities.

Since in-person events were not possible and the workplace environment during the heat of the pandemic did not allow facilities to allow employees time off to attend continuing education events, it was decided that we would hold a “virtual” Spring Seminar in 2021 sponsored jointly by the ASCLS-WA, ASCLS-OR, and CLSA using the Zoom platform. Representatives from the three states volunteered to help plan the meeting.

The live presentations were recorded so that seminar registrants would have access to view the presentation for a period of 30 days (extended to 60 days) after the live presentations. The first meeting was very successful so we agreed to continue offering the virtual Spring Seminar format for 2022 as well.

Kudos to the ASCLS-WA, ASCLS-OR, and CLSA committee members that helped plan the meetings. Working together reduced the amount of time commitment required for any one person on the planning committee and made for a great meeting. **THANK YOU!!!**

Note: If any laboratorians reading this article are interested in helping to plan future continuing education events or would like to volunteer to help your state societies in another capacity, feel free to reach out to your state organization. Click the icon below to volunteer or for information for ASCLS-WA, ASCLS-OR, and CLSA.



Your help is needed!

Volunteering does NOT require a tremendous time commitment!

You will receive personal satisfaction knowing that you are helping to advance the clinical laboratory science profession now and for the future!!!



The Best Pet Picture Submission

We are holding a contest for the most stunning images of our readers' pets. Provide the image's location and the name of your pet. The photograph of the winning pet will be published in our next issue.



Please email photo entries to Susan Runyan at pdx.susan.holmes@gmail.com with the subject line "The Centrifuge Pet Photo Contest."



Lab Puzzle

<https://thewordsearch.com>

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- BLOOD BANK
- INSTRUMENT
- RESULTS
- CONTROL
- ANATOMICAL
- SCOPE
- MICRO
- SLIDE
- IMMUNOLOGY
- COCCI
- POSITIVE
- CRITICAL
- URINALYSIS

E D I T O R

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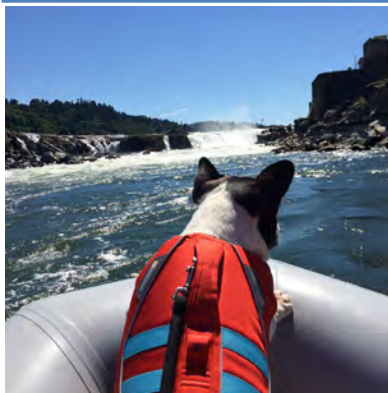
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by Jake Sinicki, MLS(ASCP)^{cm}

Centrifuge Newsletter Reader Survey

As the start of a new editorial year approaches, the newsletter team at Centrifuge is excited to hear your thoughts on modifications and upgrades to the ASCLS Oregon newsletter. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey by clicking the **Feedback icon below**. The results of this poll will be examined and included in subsequent issues of the Centrifuge.



Spike floating down Willamette Falls, Oregon City, Oregon