



**Spring 2018
Volume VII, Issue 2**

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences
Oregon Constituent Society Newsletter

The Centrifuge

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2018 ASCLS National Meeting in Chicago

Give Yourself the Gift of Professional Growth and Education Credits

It's not too late to register to attend the 2018 ASCLS National Meeting in Chicago July 29–August 2.

The meeting will take place at the Swissotel Chicago, which is minutes away from many cultural, entertainment and culinary destinations.

The ASCLS scientific program will provide attendees with

opportunities to gather knowledge and earn CE, including formal sessions, informal sessions and member submitted papers presented by nationally renowned speakers.

Be sure to visit the Lab Expo and see the latest trends in laboratory science at hundreds of vendor booths. Dedicated expo time

has been included throughout the schedule.

Explore laboratory science educational sessions and exhibits, network with your fellow laboratorians, and enjoy all that ASCLS and Chicago have to offer.

Check for more information at: www.ascls.org/education-meetings/annual-meeting

Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposiums 2017 and 2018

Leonard Kargacin from ASCLS-WA and Maja Chloupkova from ASCLS-OR

Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium (NWMLS) is the largest educational event for medical laboratory professionals organized by the joint effort of Washington or Oregon chapters of ASCLS and AMT. Every other year the event is organized by

our Washington colleagues in Lynnwood, and every other year it is organized by us – Oregon members, in Portland. Leonard Kargacin, General Chair for NWMLS 2017, summarizes the NWMLS 2017. Maja Chloupkova, General Chair for NWMLS 2018,

invites you to attend the upcoming NWMLS 2018 in Portland.

Leonard describes NWMLS 2017:

The 2017 NNWMLS was held at the Lynnwood Convention Center in Lynnwood, WA, on October 18-21, 2017.

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Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposiums 2017 and 2018

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The meeting provided 31 continuing education sessions for participants as well as the opportunity to visit the Industry Exhibits on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Some of the most well-attended sessions included:

- Leadership Across Generations: Understanding How to Leverage the Differences / Accountable Leadership: Managing and Motivating Difficult Employees
- Interaction of Epidemiologists and Laboratorians during a Communicable Disease Outbreak
- Microbiology – Fast and Furious
- Case studies in Coagulation and Red Cell Disorders
- Connecting the Dots: Adoption and Integration of New, Emerging, and Advanced Technologies within Clinical and Public Health Laboratory Diagnostics and Surveillance Testing of Infectious Diseases

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped to plan the meeting and that helped onsite. Without your support and dedication, we

would not be able to provide such a high-caliber meeting for the clinical laboratory community in the Pacific Northwest.

Maja invites you to NWMLS 2018:

You are invited to the NWMLS 2018 and Exhibits at the Holiday Inn, Portland Airport, on October 24-27, 2018. A group of dedicated volunteers has been working tirelessly since last December to create event valuable to all medical laboratory professionals. Here is what we have planned:

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, in addition to scientific sessions, you can enjoy **exhibits** and interaction with the exhibitors. Door prizes and raffles will be drawn daily for those who spend a few minutes talking to our exhibitors. Interaction between laboratory professionals and exhibitors is only one way to increase our knowledge and create network of valuable resources. From Wednesday morning until Saturday lunch time, concurrent **scientific sessions** will cover many areas of clinical laboratory, including patient safety, chemistry, hematology, coagulation, urinalysis,

microbiology, molecular diagnostics, management and education. Entire event will have **26 sessions** and offer **75 CE hours** approved by P.A.C.E. and AMTrax **towards required continuing education.**

The **program book and flyer** will be available at NWMLS website in the middle of June. **Online registration** will also be opened at that time. Bookmark the link to NWMLS 2018 website and check it often for updates: <http://www.asclswa.org/NWMLSProgram.html>.

Finally, **the best way to thank our volunteers, speakers and exhibitors is to attend the NWMLS** and to have fun there. The event is an excellent opportunity for networking, spending time with your colleagues and friends outside the laboratory while learning new and valuable information.

See you all at the NWMLS 2018 in Portland!



Events Calendar: 2018

Event	Date	Where
ASCLS Annual Meeting	July 29 – August 2	Chicago, IL
Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium (NWMLS)	October 24 – 27	Portland, OR
ASCLS Region IX Meeting	October 26	Portland, OR in conjunction with NWMLS
ASCLS-Oregon Board Meeting	October 26	Portland, OR in conjunction with NWMLS

Professional organizations are made up of your peers. It is important to connect with them for support, networking and staying current.

- Deb Disko, OIT/MLS Program Representative

Eat well, sleep well, and be good to yourselves.

- Ryan Brown, OIT/MLS Assistant Professor

“Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind always” (Source unknown). I think it holds true for MLS students, those working in a lab and in our everyday lives.

– Dawn Taylor, OIT/MLS Department Chair, Program Director



ASCLS-OR Student Representative Update

By Rachel Eberhard, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

As an undergraduate student, the pressure of finding the right career was always looming. I studied hard and had faith that at the end of the grueling four years I would know what to do with my life. That was not the case. I moved back in with my parents, got a job at a local coffee shop and felt like my degree was a waste of time and money. As I was exploring my options, I stumbled upon Medical Laboratory Science. I enrolled in a phlebotomy class to move towards a healthcare career and worked at an outpatient clinic for almost a year before I moved to Wilsonville to study at OIT. I enjoyed the material immensely- it fit perfectly with my interests in human physiology and immunology. Now when I go to work, be it in Chemistry, Hematology or Blood Bank, I learn something new each day and know that I have a significant impact on the lives of the patients that visit our hospital. I take pride in the work that we do and strive for excellence in each specimen that we test.

It doesn't matter how you came to be a part of the Medical Laboratory Science profession. What matters is that you

love it and appreciate the profound impact you have on patients- even though you may never meet them in person. Those of us currently working in the field appreciate all the hard work you do as students to further your learning and pursue excellence as you enter this extremely rewarding profession. I encourage you to engage in professional societies that have the means to support and guide you through the many avenues your degree has to offer. There are so many ways to be involved with this profession, beyond just going to work. Consider attending a conference and pursuing an active role in ASCLS. You may just find more than you are looking for.

Rachel Eberhard graduated from OIT/OHSU MLS program in 2016. She is currently employed as a generalist on day shift at St. Charles Health System in Bend, OR. She is on the ASCLS-OR board of directors as Student Representative and was elected to move into the New Professional board position as of August 1, 2018.

Keep yourself marketable. Be a generalist and learn as much as you can about everything. Be open and adaptable to this changing world we live in.

- Rachelle Barrett, OIT/MLS Instructor



Betsy Baptist Scholarship Winners

This scholarship is available to students enrolled at Oregon schools for Medical Laboratory Technicians (PCC-2nd year) and Medical Laboratory Scientists (OIT). Awards are made based on the applicant's goals as they pertain to ASCLS and ASCLS-OR. This year three \$5,000 scholarships were awarded – two to OIT/MLS students and one to a PCC/MLT student. This year's winners are (in alphabetical order):



Genaro Hernandez
PCC/MLT Class of 2018

"I was born and raised in Southern California. The first part of my career focused on scientific research. Two years ago, I learned about Medical Laboratory Science. I became interested in this field because my work could impact patients immediately and my scientific knowledge and skills were relevant. I dedicated myself to the profession after taking an introductory course that provided a survey of the field. My current professional

goals are to excel in my first job as a Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) at Sea Mar Community Health in Salmon Creek, WA and to continue to serve the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). I am currently the Government Affairs Committee Representative and Student Representative for ASCLS Oregon. I also serve on the Planning Committee for the 2018 Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium for ASCLS Oregon. When I am not working, I enjoy boxing, jiu jitsu, and salsa dancing. My wife and I are expecting our first baby in the fall. I am very much looking forward to my new career as an MLT and my new role as a dad."



Svetlana Kerrigan
OIT/MLS Class of 2018

"I was born and raised in Liepaja, Latvia, and I moved to the United States when I was a sophomore in high school with my family. I became interested in laboratory science after I went through Clinical laboratory assistant

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Remember that every specimen number represents a person wanting to live a healthy life.

- Dustin Brown, OIT/MLS Instructor/Professor

Betsy Baptist Scholarship Winners

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program at Clackamas Community College. That program showed me how interesting the laboratory can be and it inspired me to continue my studies to become a Medical Laboratory Scientist. While I was working on getting the prerequisites for the MLS program, I had a summer internship in Laboratory Information Systems at Kaiser Permanente where I got to learn about laboratory organization and the computer system that connects the lab with the rest of the medical world. Since coming to this country I got married, became a naturalized citizen and I am excited to see where my career in the medical laboratory science takes me.”

**Kaitlyn Saunders**

OIT/MLS Class of 2018

“I’m from Danville, California, which is a suburb in the San Francisco Bay Area. I’ve know that I wanted to go into medical laboratory science since I was a freshman in high school and we did a Urinalysis lab in my

Biology class. I love this field because I get to solve puzzles and utilize my love for science to help patients. After I graduate, I want to work as a generalist and get experience in multiple areas of the laboratory. I hope to end up in a larger hospital or reference lab, so I can see unique samples and work with different analyzers. In my free time, I like to cross stitch and read. I try to read 100 books a year, but I’ve been so busy with this program that I doubt I’ll get that far this year!”

Congratulations, scholarship recipients. Best wishes for a successful and fulfilling professional career.

Embrace technology and be open to changes in the field.

- Caroline Doty, OIT/MLS Assistant Professor



Spotlight on OIT/OHSU MLS Program Faculty and Staff



The Centrifuge featured the 2017 MLS OIT/OHSU graduating class in the Winter 2018 issue. In the Fall 2018 issue we will feature the graduating class from the PCC MLT program.

In this issue, we visit with OIT/MLS faculty and staff, those who have imparted to future laboratorians their knowledge, words of wisdom, mentorship and support.



Rachelle Barrett
MLS(ASCP)SBB
Instructor,
Foundations of MLS II
and Blood Banking

Education:
Bachelor of Science in
Chemistry from Oregon State

University, Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science from OHSU/OIT, specialty in blood banking from University of Texas Medical Branch.

Career prior to OIT: Worked seven years as a generalist on the night shift and three years as a Blood Bank Manager. Why did you decide to become a Medical Laboratory Scientist?

I wanted to be that guy on CSI who ran the DNA machine. That is not how it turned out though and I am glad. I never knew I would love transfusion medicine and being an intrinsic partner in resolving trauma situations as much as I do.

What do you enjoy most about your job at OIT?

The students and how excited they are to learn. My fellow coworkers are some of the most amazing people I get to work with and I feel very blessed that they let me be a part of their team.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Staying relevant to the topics we need to teach, and the different teaching methods required for the students.

What is the most important piece of advice you give to current and future students? Keep yourself marketable. Be a generalist and learn as much as you can about everything. Be open and adaptable to this changing world we live in.

Please tell us what you consider important about involvement in one's professional organization. Involvement in the professional organization allows you to have contacts in the community for shared knowledge. It also allows you to have a voice in legislation that develops that could affect the profession.

What are your hobbies and interests?

I have two children a 6-year-old and 8-year-old who are my world. This profession is great for family life because I can tell my children that I am doing something important for the community and still be home with them for dinner. They think it is fun that mommy is a real live scientist. I write fiction and paint.

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Spotlight on OIT/MLS Faculty and Staff

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Ryan E. Brown
MS, MLS (ASCP)
Assistant Professor,
Clinical Chemistry and
Immunology

Education:
Bachelor of Science in Clinical
Laboratory Sciences, Arizona
State; Master of Science in
Clinical Laboratory Sciences,
Rosalind Franklin University.

Career prior to OIT:
Generalist, blood banker, and
biomarker developer for the
past 12 years.

Why did you decide to
become a Medical Laboratory
Scientist?
My cousin died of leukemia
when she was 21-years-old.
This both scared and
interested my 12-year-old self.
I have been curious about the
discipline ever since.

What do you enjoy most about
your job at OIT?
Finding a better, more clever
way to deliver complex ideas

to students-keeps my brain
and body moving!

What is the most challenging
part of your job?
Utilizing multiple delivery
methods so that different
students with different learning
styles all have a fundamental
grasp of the concept(s).

What is the most important
piece of advice you give to
current and future students?
Eat well, sleep well, and be
good to yourselves.

Please tell us what you
consider important about
involvement in one's
professional organization.
The most important thing is
just being involved.
Submersing yourself in the
organization will generate
ideas all on its own, but only
if you are involved and
engaged.

What are your hobbies and
interests?
Playing guitar, writing music,
reading books, playing with my
2-year-old, and contemplating
the nature of existence. I want
to make music with my
daughter someday. If this
could happen I would not ask
anything else of this world.



Dustin Brown
MT(ASCP)
Instructor/Professor,
Practice, Microbiology and
Parasitology

Education:
Bachelor of Science,
Medical Technology, St.
Vincent's Hospital,
Portland, OR; Bachelor of
Science Microbiology,
Idaho State University.

Career prior to OIT:
Medical Technologist and
Microbiologist in hospital,
private laboratory, and
public health settings.

Why did you decide to
become a Medical
Laboratory Scientist?
I enjoy science and wanted
to do something that would
help people in real time.

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Spotlight on OIT/MLS Faculty and Staff

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What do you enjoy most about your job at OIT?

Interacting with the students and seeing them progress and succeed.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Time management.

What is the most important piece of advice you give to current and future students?

Remember that every specimen number represents a person wanting to live a healthy life.

Please tell us what you consider important about involvement in one's professional organization. Continuing education - both for myself, and to impart to others.

What are your hobbies and interests? What do you do for fun in your spare time? Flintknapping, rocketry, microphotography/videography.



Deb Disko

Program Representative -
Advising Potential MLS
Students,
Faculty Support,
Externship Support,
Program Admissions

Education:

Elementary Education,
University of Minnesota,
Western State, Colorado

What do you enjoy most about your job at OIT?

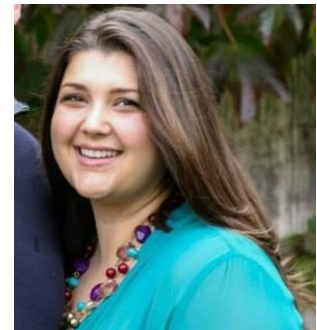
Helping students, supporting them from when they first enter the program through completion to reach their goals. And, the awesome faculty.

Please tell us what you consider important about involvement in one's professional organization. Professional organizations are made up of your peers. It is important to connect with them for support, networking and staying current with

technology, procedures and professional politics.

What are your hobbies and interests? What do you do for fun in your spare time?

Music, gardening and enjoying the Pacific Northwest



Caroline Doty

M.S. MLS (ASCP) Assistant
Professor
Molecular Diagnostics,
Urinalysis,
Foundations of MLS,
Clinical Coordinator

Education:

Master's in life sciences at
Northwestern University;
Bachelor of Science degree
in Biology at Clayton State
University, Bachelor of
Science from OIT/OHSU
MLS program.

Career prior to OIT:
Academic research and
teaching at undergraduate
and graduate levels.

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Spotlight on OIT/MLS Faculty and Staff

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Transitioned to Medical Lab Science in 2013 and was hired on full time as an MLS generalist at PeaceHealth Southwest Regional Medical Center. In addition to professor duties at OIT, still currently work at PeaceHealth as an on-call MLS.

Why did you decide to become a Medical Laboratory Scientist?

I didn't feel that the academic research I was conducting was having a direct impact on patients. After shadowing and MLS friend, I fell in love with the profession; it was fast paced, interesting, thought provoking, and directly influenced patient outcomes.

What do you enjoy most about your job at OIT?

The best part of my job is witnessing the "aha moment" a student has when they grasp a new concept. It is also satisfying to see students integrate and apply their previous background knowledge with what they are learning in class. Also, it is wonderful to hear how much the students enjoy doing the same work that I love doing!

What is the most challenging part of your job?

The most challenging part of my job is trying to find enough clinical externship sites for the students in the program. To try to meet the growing demands for MLS in the field, each year we admit around 46-50 students into the MLS program. Admitting so many students, however, has its drawbacks when trying to find enough clinical sites to provide all the necessary rotations for the students to gain practical field experience, especially in microbiology.

What is the most important piece of advice you give to current and future students? Embrace technology and be open to changes in the field. Be patient, tolerant and nice to your peers. You never know the personal struggles that a peer may be going through. Live by the ASCLS code of ethics.

Please tell us what you consider important about involvement in one's professional organization. Being involved in ASCLS is key to maintaining professional knowledge and taking charge of your professional career.

What are your hobbies and interests? What do you do for fun in your spare time?

Reading cookbooks - performing the recipes doesn't always happen with my busy schedule. My husband and I also enjoy going on motorcycle rides and taking vacations on the Oregon coast.



Dawn Taylor

EdM, MT(ASCP)
Department Chair,
Program Director,
Assistant Professor
teaching Hematology,
Hemostasis and Educational
Methods

Education:

Oregon State University, EdM,
Adult Education/Organization
and Human Resource
Education; Illinois State
University, Bachelor of
Science, Medical Technology;
Methodist Medical Center of
Illinois, Peoria, IL - Medical
Technology Internship.

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Spotlight on OIT/MLS Faculty and Staff

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Career background prior to OIT - Oregon Health and Science University Hospital Clinical Laboratory Scientist – including several departments, shifts, supervisory roles and physician office personnel education.

Why did you decide to become a Medical Laboratory Scientist?

My mom is a nurse, so I grew up with “medical talk”. I always thought her job was so interesting and I wanted a job that had that kind of impact on patients. I always enjoyed science in school, especially the biological sciences and somewhere along the line I heard about the professionals that work in the medical lab and that intrigued me. My mom got me into the lab as a candy striper volunteering in the lab. During that time, I was able to observe the core lab and talk to the techs there. I had found my niche’.

What do you enjoy most about your job at OIT?

Working with the MLS students. I love teaching and they make it so much fun (most of the time). I view teaching at this level to be a true partnership and I feel honored that students let me participate in helping prepare

them for their future. Seeing them walk across the stage at graduation is so rewarding. They have worked so hard to get to this point and now they get to start doing this for real!!

A very close second to working with the students would have to be working with the individuals within the MLS department. Their dedication is second to none. We had several great predecessors who have blazed the path and built an outstanding program. This new team of MLS educators is ready to take up the flag and move this program into an exciting future. Stay tuned!

What is the most challenging part of your job?

In my current position as department chair and program director, I would have to say dealing with all the administrative duties and things that go on behind the scenes of a successful program.

What is the most important piece of advice you give to current and future students?

The cohort model (the same students do everything together for 12 months) is new to most and can be a huge benefit or a disaster.

I ask students to give each other grace. “Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind always” (Source unknown). I think it holds true for MLS students, those working in a lab and in our everyday lives.

Please tell us what you consider important about involvement in one’s professional organization. It is important for our profession to be able to speak with one voice. You can’t have influence if you aren’t willing to become part of that voice. It is also great to be able to network with others in the field.

What are your hobbies and interests?

I do love to spend time with my family. I have a granddaughter that is the most amazing three-year-old ever... just ask me, I would be happy to tell you all about her. I love photography and travel. It is especially great when I can combine the two.

Thanks again to the faculty and staff of the OIT/MLS program for taking the time to share this information and for all you do in preparing MLS students for professional success.





If you are interested in becoming more involved in ASCLS-OR by serving on a committee, becoming a board member, or providing ideas and input, please contact president Patty DeTurk at pathwaysnw@aol.com

If you have an announcement, article or essay you would like to contribute to **The Centrifuge**, please feel free to submit it for publication!

Has someone you know receive a promotion?

An award or prize?

Special recognition?

Done something unique that deserves highlighting?

Please send ideas and submissions to

Centrifuge editor

Jackie Rice

jacric2001@yahoo.com

ASCLS-OR Leadership
For contact information, follow this link:
[ASCLS-OR Leadership](#)

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