



American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences  
Oregon Constituent Society Newsletter

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# The Centrifuge

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## Oregon Spring Seminar

by Rachele Barrett MLS(ASCP) SBB, General Chair Oregon Spring Seminar 2017

Back by popular demand, please join us at the Hallmark Inn on May 19-20 for this year's Oregon Spring Seminar at beautiful Newport Oregon where you can earn up to 9 credit hours of PACE. Subjects are as wide ranging as LEAN, blood bank case studies, hematology case studies, BOC study, and parasitology just to name a few.



Seal Rock, Oregon Coast

CE isn't the only reason to attend this year's conference. Registration will get you up to two drinks and all you can eat appetizers while you schmooze with local professionals at a cocktail hour from 5-6 p.m. on Friday evening. On

Saturday, you can join the ASCLS-OR leadership for lunch in between sessions. This is also a premiere event to network with local professionals without vendors in attendance and recruit students to job openings at the job booth.

Look for session registration and the program guide on the ASCLS website at the beginning of the year. Know

you want to attend already? Register with the Hallmark Inn at [541-265-2600](tel:541-265-2600) before April 19 to get the conference rate of \$109-\$134/night depending on room style. Just mention that you are with the Oregon Spring Seminar. You can even make it a family vacation as the conference rate applies three days before and after the conference. And don't forget to bring the dog after all it is the beach.

If you want to volunteer at the conference, please contact Rachele Barrett: [khetala3@yahoo.com](mailto:khetala3@yahoo.com).

Photo courtesy Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives

## Nursing Degree Equivalency Rule Threatens Clinical Laboratory Scientists Job Security

by Helen Wand, MT(ASCP)SM

"In late spring, 2016, the ASCP Board of Certification, the ASCLS, and the ASCP met with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and presented the CMS with a petition signed by 35,000 laboratory and other interested personnel. This petition raised concerns about an April 1 **CMS declaration that stated that a degree in nursing is equivalent to a degree**

**in biological sciences under CLIA.**

The regulation would allow an individual with a bachelor's degree in nursing to perform high complexity laboratory testing. As a result, individuals with a bachelor's degree in a chemistry, physical, or biological science are not required to complete training prior to performing

high complexity laboratory testing.

During the above meeting, CMS officials noted that this had been an "internal" policy as a way of addressing the problem of lack of qualified laboratory testing personnel in rural areas.

Our laboratory representatives raised concerns about the

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## The Role of Laboratory Medicine in Patient Safety

by Patricia DeTurk, MST MT(ASCP)

**“Every system is perfectly designed to produce just the results it produces.”  
—Donald Berwick, MD**

The importance of patient safety has become a lightning rod for ASCLS; it was brought up in talks during the National Meeting in Atlanta in 2015, and was a committee position paper presented by Catherine Otto in Philadelphia in 2016. The laboratorian has a vital role in preserving patient safety, in both in maintaining quality in laboratory reporting and in acting as an advocate to the patient. Prior to the 1990's, patient safety was focused on the accuracy of the actual lab test. Since that time, most lab errors have been found to occur in the pre-analytic and post-analytic phases of laboratory testing. It is our mission that the correct test must be performed on the correct patient, and must be correctly reported to the appropriate provider in a reasonable amount of time, and that abnormal values are communicated as such to the provider.

Issues such as patient identification cannot be taken lightly. Just this last year (2016), an elderly friend of mine was called, and asked why he did not come in for his regular Protime. He actually had gone in the previous day for that exact test. He received a phone call later that day

with test results for a patient with an entirely different name. I insisted he report the problem. Amazingly, the people he called blamed him (the patient!) for the mix-up and insisted he return and have the test redrawn, because “the blood is too old to be retested” for the correct test. As we know, this does not fix the problem. And this did not happen at a small clinic, but at a large hospital in Portland.

Many pre-analytic errors can occur during specimen collection, where a particular test may require special handling. This is especially true in inpatients, where more complex tests may be ordered. (Plebani, 2014). Another source of error can occur when non-laboratory personnel are responsible for specimen collection, and who are not under laboratory control. A CAP study found that when laboratory personnel collected the specimen the rejection rate was far lower than if non-laboratory personnel did the collection, such as hemolyzed chemistry samples and clotted hematology tubes. (Howanitz, 2005).

Proper specimen collection and testing was a topic of discussion at the Point-of-

Care (POC) professional symposium I attended about during the National Meeting in Philadelphia. We determined that it was essential the laboratory take charge of any POC occurring in their facility in terms of training, QC, and maintenance of equipment, including reagents. Any “lab values” reported ultimately reflect on the quality of the entire laboratory, regardless of the origin of the testing.

The laboratorian can be the most effective, by guiding the practitioner in ordering the correct tests to aid in determining an accurate diagnosis, and in the proper protocols in determining the course of treatment. Similarly, as the pharmacist directs the provider toward the correct medications and dosages, the laboratorian can act as the patient advocate for eliminating redundant or unnecessary and costly tests.

Plebani, M. (2014) The Journey Toward Quality and Patient Safety in Laboratory Medicine Continues *N Am J Med Sci.* May 2014, 6(5): 229–230.

Howanitz, P. J. (2005) Errors in Laboratory Medicine: Practical Lessons to Improve Patient Safety. *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine:* October 2005, 129(10), 1252-1261.

**Nursing Degree Equivalency Rule  
Threatens Clinical Laboratory Scientists Job Security**

(cont. from page 1)

negative impacts to patient care and the need for accuracy and reliability of laboratory testing if the CMS continued to allow untrained personnel to perform clinical laboratory science. The representatives supplied side-by-side comparisons of nursing degrees and laboratory science degrees showing that **science requirements for a nursing degree fall short of a full BS in biological science.**

A letter dated June 22 to the CMS from the ASCP-BOC board of governors stated, "concerns that nursing degrees provide only a fraction of the scientific coursework required for the biological sciences degree and that scientific coursework nursing programs do require does not approach the level of achievement involved in obtaining a biological sciences degree."

There were also several statements from individuals who hold both nursing and biological degrees who agreed that the nursing degree does not provide the scientific foundation necessary to perform non-waived laboratory testing reliably."

The above information was taken from the following website: <http://www.ascls.org/communication/blog-society-news-now/339-boc-ascls-and-ascp-me> (copy and paste into your browser)

Over the same period of time, the Veterans Administration proposed allowing advance practice nurses to "perform and supervise" laboratory testing, which ASCLS vigorously opposed. The VA has since rescinded the language in the rule and has agreed with the ASCLS position.

Jim Flanigan, the Executive Vice-President of the ASCLS, [jimf@ascls.org](mailto:jimf@ascls.org) says "Now that the Veterans Administration issue is resolved, laboratorians need to be prepared to respond to calls to action when they arise. The process of modernizing the CLIA personnel regulations will take several years, but there will be several, critical opportunities to engage in the process along the way. Unfortunately, the process is unpredictable, but if our community responds in the way it did to the issue with the VA, we can see success."

See "SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE, LABORATORIANS CONVINCING VA TO CHANGE RULE" at the above website for more information.

**"Get up, stand up,  
Stand up for your  
rights. Get up, stand up,  
Don't give up the fight."  
—Bob Marley**



**Events Calendar: 2017**

Event	Date	Where
Oregon Spring Seminar	May 19-20, 2017	Newport, OR
ASCLS-OR Board of Directors Meeting	May 20, 2017 Noon-1 p.m.	Newport, OR
ASCLS Clinical Laboratory Educators' Conference	February 23-25, 2017	Boston, MA
ASCLS Legislative Symposium	March 20-21, 2017	Alexandria, VA
Annual Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo	August 1-5, 2017	San Diego, CA

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**Editor-in-Chief:** Jackie Rice  
**Associate Editor:** Patricia DeTurk  
**Assistant Editor:** Vathani Logendran

### New Professional Spotlight – Jennifer Lee

Interview by Vathani Logendran, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, ASCLS-OR New Professional Board Member



Jennifer Lee

#### What is your name and when did you graduate?

I'm Jennifer Lee and I graduated from the OIT Clinical Lab Sciences program in December of 2015.

#### Where do you work and what position?

I work at the Legacy Health core lab in Gresham, OR as an evening shift generalist.

#### Why did you decide to become a Medical Lab Scientist?

It fit a lot of what I was looking for in a job, and it seemed the most interesting to me.

#### What is the most challenging part of your job?

Some days are crazy busy while other days go without a hitch. Some days you can be pulled in several different directions: you're covering 2 departments, you're troubleshooting because QC is out on your main analyzer, tubes from the ED keep coming and you haven't had your first break, but everything's going to be okay. It's great when you have an awesome group of

coworkers for times when it gets really busy.

#### What's the best part about your job?

I really like the varied and technical aspects of my job. Every day is different and interesting.

#### What was your favorite part of being a student at OIT in the CLS program?

The friends I made through the program and our hardworking professors. People would bring desserts to share on exam day, which was the best.

#### What's the biggest advice you would give to current and future students?

Make friends and get together in study groups. Be willing to help and receive help from others.

#### Why are you a member of ASCLS?

It's great to be a part of a big community that represents lab professionals. It's nice that there are resources available and opportunities to learn about tech advances. It's a way to stay connected and in the know.

#### What are your hobbies?

I enjoy cooking, dancing, shooting, DIY projects, and cars.

#### What is your biggest goal both career and personal life related?

I would love to invent something one day that could help others.

### Student Representative Update

By Laura Sage MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>,

ASCLS-OR Student Representative Board Member

As ASCLS-OR's new 2016-2017 Student Representative – well, not so new, as of the writing of this article – my goal is to be a source of support and information to all the MLS and MLT students in Oregon. Having graduated from the OIT/OHSU MLS program in December of 2015, I've been out of school for a little while, but the classes, studying strategies, sleep deprivation, hard work, and learning are still fresh in my mind. Thus, I am the ASCLS Representative "to the" Students. Also, having

passed my boards and been a certified, employed Medical Technologist for about a year now, I can give recent and still relevant advice and guidance as to what comes after graduation and taking the boards. So far this school year, ASCLS-OR President Patricia DeTurk and I have visited this year's OIT/OHSU MLS students in Wilsonville and the first year PCC MLT program students in Portland, and we really enjoyed telling them about what ASCLS does and how we laboratory professionals can support our profession

and colleagues in having fulfilling careers and providing the best patient care possible. I've also fielded several questions from students in person and by email, ranging from what the boards are like, to how to find scholarships, to how to attend the National Meeting.

Speaking of the National Meeting: to sum it up, I had a great time! Laboratorians are stereotyped as an introverted bunch, and that may be based in truth, but we still love to get together. It's inspiring and eye-

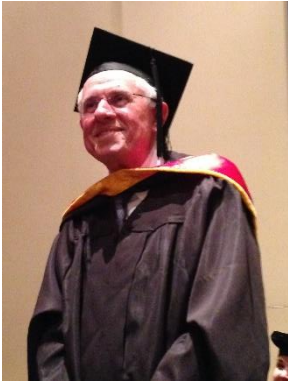
opening to meet and interact with so many other MLS/MLT students and fellow professionals from around the country, especially places I haven't been, and learning about the similarities and differences among our schools and within our profession. There are a few slightly different paths to becoming an MLS, which I knew about in theory, but I gained a better understanding by actually meeting other students going through different programs with the same end

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## Dr. Abraham Furman Retiring from OIT/OHSU Clinical Laboratory Science Program

By Jordan Eggers MLS(ASCP), OIT/OHSU CLS Class of 2014



Abraham Furman, PhD

The fall term of 2016 marks a milestone in one of Oregon Institute of Technology's most cherished professors. Dr. Abraham Furman will be retiring from his Associate Professor position in OIT/Oregon Health Sciences University's Clinical Laboratory Science program. Dr. Furman has been teaching at OIT since 1995, when the program was still located at the OHSU campus. Prior to his tenure at OIT, he was an Assistant Professor in the University of Nevada, Reno CLS program. Additionally, while teaching at OIT, Dr. Furman also taught part time at Portland Community College and during the summers at Washington State University, Vancouver and Portland State University.

Dr. Furman began his path towards clinical lab science and teaching as early as high school. Great role models, such as his high school biology teacher Miss Nelson, gave him an early glimpse of the joys of teaching. Dr. Furman's college advisor and mentor, Dr. Eli Sercarz, was an inspiration to the budding educator and instrumental in helping him develop a concrete plan to achieve his teaching career goals.

Dr. Furman graduated from San Diego State College with a B.S. in biology and shortly thereafter completed his B.S. in medical technology at Loma Linda University. His early career included working as a medical technologist at a handful of hospitals in southern California. Dr. Furman returned to school while still working part time as a medical technologist and completed his Ph. D. in Microbiology from the University of California, Los Angeles. After three years of postdoctoral work at UCLA, he worked as a research scientist at Diagnostics Products Corporation and Pacific Hemostasis until 1991, when he began teaching at University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Furman would spend the next 35 years educating medical technologist students in Nevada and Oregon as well as teaching science to students pursuing other careers. I asked Dr. Furman what he found to be the most enjoyable aspects of teaching.

"Definitely the number one joy was being able to be with people who considered learning to be one of the joys of living. That includes students, faculty and staff. I also like sharing knowledge and ideas. Often I would learn so much from students, that I would end the day by thinking to myself, "Wow, what a great learning and sharing day today happened to be"."

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## Student Representative Update

(cont. from page 4)

goal. With this new understanding, I hope to be able to support our Oregon students in their academic and professional goals. Plus, making new friends and networking with new colleagues helped me grow personally and professionally during a very stressful time in my personal and professional life! Bonus: the 2016 National Meeting was in Philadelphia, which I'd never been to before.

During the last seven months of my tenure as ASCLS-OR Student Representative, I hope to continue to provide support, advice, and a link to the larger ASCLS community for our students. If I don't have the answer for you, I will find someone in ASCLS who does. I also plan to stop by in person at the lab programs some more, but I am also available to ask questions of any time by email. To that end, please feel free to email me at [lcgotthardt@gmail.com](mailto:lcgotthardt@gmail.com). I'd also encourage you to find the ASCLS-OR Facebook page (search for "ASCLS-OR") as well as to join the ASCLS Student Forum & Recent Graduates Facebook group. The ASCLS Student Forum is a great place to ask questions of and build community with hundreds of other MLS/MLT students on a national level. Think of it as your class Facebook group (I know you have one), but bigger!

Best of luck, and happy studying!





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 Patricia DeTurk at [pathwaysnw@aol.com](mailto: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 with the subject line, "The Centrifuge Submission" to: Jackie Rice [jacric2001@yahoo.com](mailto:jacric2001@yahoo.com)

Visit the website at [www.ASCLS-Oregon.org](http://www.ASCLS-Oregon.org)

Like ASCLS-OR on Facebook (click on the Facebook logo below):



## Dr. Abraham Furman Retiring from OIT/OHSU Clinical Laboratory Science Program

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As a past student of Dr. Furman's, I whole-heartedly agree. In and out of class Dr. Furman made great efforts to not only share his knowledge, but also incorporate experiences and the knowledge of his students into what was being taught. Dr. Furman's experience and expertise in a variety of areas of medical technology, industry and education was the foundation of his teaching excellence. However, his attention to his students, his willingness to continue learning, and his efforts in making students part of the learning process instead of just a room to lecture at made Dr. Furman an excellent teacher. The OHSU/OIT program was fortunate to have such a wonderful person and teacher to work with. He will be missed in the halls of the OIT Wilsonville campus. Dr. Furman echoed the sentiment; he will miss sharing daily learning and academic life with his peers. "So inspiring. I have been fortunate to have worked with the best in my field. Wonderful, wonderful people." Dr. Furman maybe retiring from his full-time position at OIT/OHSU, but he plans to teach in other ways. He will continue to be a part time instructor at Portland Community College and he plans to be a volunteer tutor for local middle schools, high schools, and libraries.

## Reflection from the Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium 2016

Maja Chloupkova, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium (NWMLS) is the largest event organized for medical laboratory professionals in the Northwest. The organizing committee is composed solely of volunteers who work or have retired from medical laboratory profession. It takes almost a year to organize the event, and the best reward for us all is to see a successful event with our colleagues enjoying every minute of their time. That was also the case for the NWMLS 2016.

The NWMLS 2016 was held last October, in Holiday Inn, Portland. Many experts from the Northwest and elsewhere presented their knowledge at 33 scientific sessions. This time, we also experimented with having an evening session. The evening session was so well attended and so greatly evaluated that having evening session(s) will likely become an annual event at the NWMLS.

In addition to scientific sessions, NWMLS is known for its exhibits. More than 40 exhibitors (45 to be exact) came to the NWMLS 2016. Vendors were very excited to talk to attendees. Raffle that we started for the first time was a big hit – some vendors even created their own raffles. Overall, we had over 100 medical laboratory professionals from Oregon, Washington and Alaska attending exhibits and sessions. Their positive feedback is a huge motivation for the whole organizing committee. We are very proud to say that NWMLS is still considered an important networking place where the knowledge meets with pleasure. Please, keep supporting us and come to the next NWMLS in October 2017 – this time to Lynwood, WA.

Maja Chloupkova, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
NWMLS 2016 General Chair



### Betsy Baptist Scholarship Application Reminder Two \$5,000 Oregon Student Scholarships

The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) Oregon Constituent Society announces availability of two \$5,000 scholarships. These are made possible by a generous bequest by Betsy Baptist, who was a long-time laboratory professional and instructor at OHSU. The scholarships are available to students enrolled at OIT's CLS program or the final year of PCC's MLT program (see application for details).

The deadline for applications is April 30. The application must be received by the ASCLS-OR Director of Scholarships by April 30. You must be a member of ASCLS to apply for the scholarship, however the student membership rate is quite reasonable. Please visit the website at [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org) to join and learn more about the organization and membership benefits. To obtain an application, please see your program director. If you have any questions, please email the Director of Scholarships, Heidi Smith, at [heidi2041@comcast.net](mailto:heidi2041@comcast.net).

### ASCLS-OR National Award Recipients

Congratulations to these ASCLS-OR members for awards announced at the 2016 ASCLS National Meeting in Philadelphia last July.

New Professional of the Year 2016: Maja Chloupkova

Keys to the Future: Maja Chloupkova, Patricia DeTurk, Jackie Rice, Lorianne Smith

### Free CE Credits Reminder

ASCLS is acknowledging your membership renewal for the 2016-17 year by offering to help you earn free P.A.C.E. credit through ASCLS. If you renewed by September 1, 2016, you can obtain up to six credits at no charge.

An email was sent to qualifying members. If you are eligible and did not receive the email containing the discount code, contact ASCLS at [ascls@ascls.org](mailto:ascls@ascls.org).

### ASCLS-OR Leadership 2016-2017

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

Patricia DeTurk	President
Ryan Howey	President Elect
Maja Chloupkova	Past President
Jackie Rice	Secretary
Krista Moore	Treasurer
Laura Sage	Student Representative
Vathani Logendran	New Professional
Helen Wand	Board Member At-Large
Patricia DeTurk	Principal Agent
Emily Barbur	P.A.C.E. Chair
Heidi Smith	Director of Scholarships
Maha Iqbal	Membership Chair
Lorianne Smith	Outreach Chair



## Oregon Institute of Technology Clinical Laboratory Science Program 2016 Graduates



Congratulations to these 2016 graduates of the OIT/OHSU CLS program:

Hannah Acre  
Wafa Al-Obeidi  
Leticia Alvarez Frias  
Margaret Anderson  
Aaron Burrow  
Bret Buxton  
Brittney Caudill  
Kaitlyn Collier  
Chase Davis  
Holli Davis  
Spicie Davis  
Rachel Eberhard  
Kayla Haffner  
Shaun Hennings  
Juan Carlos Hernandez  
Jena Hoffman  
Tabitha Hoinowski  
Timothy Houghton  
Melissa Humphrey  
Brittney Johnston  
Danielle Keogh  
Alix Koontz  
Janeen Kuenzi  
Laurence Lau  
LueAnn Mackenzie  
Mayumi Markee  
Lacey Mesia  
Dawn Moeller  
William Morris  
Jared Morrison  
Phuong Du Ngo  
Wanda Nussrallah  
Pamela McCarthy  
Ana Radu  
Jillian Redmond  
Cali Ricks  
Stephanie Samard  
Juliane Scheele  
Michael Schmitt  
Allister Smith  
Kathleen Snyder

Sharayah Stone  
Charles Turner  
Tang Vang  
Andrea Vilendre

Each year the university presents Outstanding Scholar awards. Only one student may be appointed for a given degree program. These are students appointed by their department chair or program director who, in the opinion of the faculty, have demonstrated academic excellence in their major. They wear a special honor cord and are presented a certificate. Their name is also inscribed on a permanent plaque. This is an extremely difficult decision as there are so many deserving students. This Year's Outstanding Scholar is Cali Ricks.

Academic Excellence. This award recognizes the graduate with the highest GPA while in the MLS Program. This year, a record 16 graduates tied for the Academic Excellence Award with 4.0 grade point averages while in this demanding and rigorous program.

Brittney Caudill  
Kaitlyn Collier  
Rachel Eberhard  
Jena Hoffman  
Tabitha Hoinowski  
Danielle Keogh  
Janeen Kuenzi

Laurence Lau  
Jared Morrison  
Cali Ricks  
Stephanie Samard  
Juliane Scheele  
Allister Smith  
Sharayah Stone  
Charles Turner  
Andrea Vilendre

Outstanding Medical Laboratory Science Student Award is chosen by peers and faculty. It is given to the MLS graduate who best exemplifies a medical laboratory scientist. This student exudes professionalism, respect of peers, dedication to helping others, technical ability, initiative, integrity, communication skills, and ability to work well with others. This year, we have a tie. The honor goes to Aaron Burrow and Andrea Vilendre.

We also recognized the following scholarship and award recipients.  
ASCLS-Alpha Mu Tau Scholarships: Tabitha Hoinowski; ASCLS Education and Research Fund Scholarship: Ana Radu; ASCLS-OR Betsy Baptist Memorial Scholarship: Ana Radu, Jillian Redmond; Portland Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution: Spicie Davis; ASCP- Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Scholarship: Tabitha Hoinowski, Timothy



Houghton, Jillian  
Redmond, Tang Vang;  
American Medical  
Technology Scholarship:  
Tang Vang; VA Valor  
Scholar Award: Wanda  
Nussrallah, Savannah  
Sheehy; Oregon Tech-  
Presidential Scholarship:  
Margaret Anderson;  
Oregon Tech Foundation  
Scholarships: Wafa Al-  
Obeidi, Kaitlyn Collier,  
Janeen Kuenzi

Oregon Tech, Wilsonville  
– Outstanding  
Involvement Award:  
Margaret Anderson

Recognition of U.S  
Military Veterans: Wanda  
Nussrallah. Andrea  
Vilendre

The Centrifuge gratefully  
acknowledges Dawn  
Taylor, Program Director,  
for providing this  
information on the 2016  
graduating class.

Note that the PCC MLT  
Program had a “bye” year  
and did not graduate a  
class in 2016.