ASCLS
The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND

78th Clinical Laboratory Science Convention
March 30 & 31, 2026
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Warwick, Rhode Island

Register today!!

To register go to:
https://asclscne.regfox.com/77th-annual-ascls-cne-clinical-laboratory-science-convention

The ASCLS-CNE Annual Clinical Laboratory Science Convention is one of the largest conferences offered for medical laboratory professionals in the region. This long-standing event is designed for medical laboratory scientists and technicians, along with laboratory directors, managers, supervisors, students, educators and laboratory support staff.

We are happy to provide an in-person opportunity to attend an educational 2-day event for our laboratory professionals including the opportunity to attend sessions and obtain **P.A.C.E.®** credits covering multiple disciplines of laboratory science along with networking opportunities, all of which we could not do without the support of our venders and sponsors.

ASCLS-CNE is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program.

Sessions will run from 9am to 4pm including an Opening Keynote on Monday at 9am and a Closing Keynote on Tuesday at 2:45pm. (See the *Schedule at a Glance* below)

STUDENT POSTER SESSIONS

Case studies and research topics (either library research or scientific research) will be presented in a poster format by ASCLS-CNE student members from MLS and MLT Programs in our area. Posters will be available for your viewing pleasure.

COFFEE BREAKS

Please join us daily for our sponsored coffee break. Enjoy refreshments while visiting our vendors and sponsors.
Coffee breaks daily at 10:30am and 2:30pm.

VENDOR RECEPTION

Kick off the evening at our Vendor Reception on Monday at 4:00 PM!
Sip, snack, and connect with our wonderful vendors and colleagues
in a relaxed and festive atmosphere.

2026 ASCLS-CNE Annual Convention Program Committee

Program Chair
Leslie Martineau, CharterCare Health Partners, Providence RI
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Transfusion Medicine
Darlene Folan, RI Blood Center, Providence RI & Melanie Oliveira, CharterCare Health Partners, Providence RI
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Hospitality
Leslie Martineau/Maddie Josephs

Schedule at a glance

ASCLS-CNE 78th Clinical Laboratory Science Convention
Monday, March 30, 2026

Opening Keynote Speaker 9:00-10:00am	**Driving Employee Engagement and Decreasing Turnover with Frontline Healthcare Workers** Doug Hamilton, DBA, DLM(ASCP)cm ***Sponsor: Quest Diagnostics***		
	10:30-11:30am	1:30-2:30pm	3:00-4:00pm
Chemistry/General	**Optimizing Liver Function Test Interpretation in NAFLD: Transaminases, Uric Acid, and the Critical Role of Provider Education** Mark Kellogg, PhD, MLS(ASCP)	**Why QC Keeps Getting Worse** Sten Westgard, MS ***Sponsor: Beckman***	**Westgard Rules at 45: These are Not (My) Father's Rules** Sten Westgard, MS ***Sponsor: Beckman***
Hematology	**Precision in Practice: Advancing Quality and Compliance Across Coagulation Laboratories** LaShanta Brice, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SH^{CM} ***Sponsor: Diagnostica Stago Inc.***	**The Clinical Value of ESR and the Benefits of Modern ESR Testing** Susan Evans, PhD, FADLM ***Sponsor: Alcor***	**Hematology Case Studies** Luz Flaherty, MPH, MLS(ASCP) ***Sponsor: Beckman Coulter***
Microbiology	**Break the STI Cycle with Accurate *Mycoplasma genitalium* (M. gen) Testing** Diana R. Hernandez, PhD ***Sponsor: Hologic***	**Back to Basics – Respiratory Cultures** Kevin Alby, PhD, D(ABMM)	**Strongyloidiasis: Hiding in Plain Sight** Sara Geffert, MD, MS, D(ABMM)
Transfusion Medicine	**The Intersection of Organ Donation and Clinical Laboratory Science** Christopher Curren, CTPC, CTBS,CTOP	**Challenging Immunohematology Cases in the Setting of Stem Cell Transplantation** Nalan Yurtsever, MD	**Epidemiologic Survey of Babesia in Adult Blood Donors in Rhode Island After Implementation of NAT** Christian P Nixon, MD, PhD
Luncheon Speaker 12:00-1:00pm	**From Empathy to Impact: Design Thinking in the Laboratory** Allison G. Butler, M.Ed.,Ph.D		

Schedule at a glance

ASCLS-CNE 78th Clinical Laboratory Science Convention
Tuesday, March 31, 2026

	9:00-10:00am	10:30-11:30am	1:30-2:30pm
Chemistry/General	**Current applications and future potential of Alzheimer's disease biomarkers** Michael Kelliher, PhD, DABCC, FADLM ***Sponsor: Roche Diagnostics***	**Iron, Hepcidin, and Cardiovascular Risk** Kyle Riding, PhD, MLS(ASCP)cm	**The Clinical Laboratory's Impact on Health Literacy** Kyle Riding, PhD, MLS(ASCP) cm
Hematology	**Pre and Post Analytical Variables in Hemostasis** Alexandra Reese, MLS (ASCP)cm ***Sponsor: Sysmex***	**Flow Cytometry: immunophenotype of Acute Myeloid Leukemia Including Those with Defining Genetic Abnormalities** Karen Ferreira PhD, MS, MLS(ASCP)	**Non-neoplastic Disorders of Granulocytes and Platelets with Peripheral Blood Manifestations** Dariusz R. Stachurski, MD
Microbiology	**A New Paradigm: HPV Primary Testing Genotype Risk & Self-Collection in Cervical Cancer Screening** John Birdsall, ND ***Sponsor: Abbott Diagnostics***	**"Parasite AI Has Entered the Chat": Parasitology Finally Leads the Field in Clinical Microbiology** Marc Roger Couturier Ph.D., D(ABMM)	**Interesting, Intriguing, and Possibly Disgusting Cases in Parasitology** Marc Roger Couturier Ph.D., D(ABMM)
Transfusion Medicine	**Manufacturing and Use of Cellular Therapy Products** Olive J Sturtevant MHP, MLS(ASCP) SBB,SLS, ASQ(CQA)	**Antibody Identification: Should we Automate?** Melissa Laufer, BS, BB/SBB (ASCP) ***Sponsor: Bio-Rad***	**Empower Group O Care for Your Hospital** Fay Bernadette West, MD ***Sponsor: American Red Cross***
Closing Keynote Speaker 2:45pm to 3:45pm followed by Awards Ceremony	**Reflections on My Life as a Medical Laboratory Professional** Karen Ferreira PhD, MS, MLS(ASCP)		
Luncheon Speaker 12:00-1:00pm	**Health Policy For Clinical Laboratory Scientists** Michael Fine, M.D.		

ASCLS-CNE would like to thank the exhibitors and sponsors who are supporting this year's annual convention!

List as of 3/1/2026-check back for updates

Please stop by and visit our sponsors during the meeting

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EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Monday, March 30, 2026

Opening Keynote

9:00am

Driving Employee Engagement and Decreasing Turnover with Frontline Healthcare Workers

This presentation discusses current employee turnover trends and ways decrease turnover with ideas to drive effective employee engagement

Program Objectives:

1) Identify the critical shortage of healthcare professionals in the reasons behind it
2) Describe successful strategies executive leaders can implement to engage and retain top talent among healthcare professionals
3) Explore ways executive leaders can decrease turnover

Doug Hamilton, DBA, DLM(ASCP)cm
Vice President Laboratory Operations

Sponsor: Quest Diagnostics

Doug is the Vice President of Laboratory Operations for the Great Midwest Region at Quest Diagnostics, where he has worked over 33 years in a variety of leadership and front-line roles. In his current role, he is responsible for driving the strategy and execution of enhanced operational excellence, medical quality, customer experience, and employee engagement in laboratory operations. Prior to working at Quest Diagnostics, Doug worked as a Medical Laboratory Scientist at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis, MO.

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

Chemistry/General

10:30-11:30am

Optimizing Liver Function Test Interpretation in NAFLD: Transaminases, Uric Acid, and the Critical Role of Provider Education

This presentation examines the complexities of liver function test interpretation in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), with emphasis on understanding transaminase reference intervals and the emerging role of uric acid as a biomarker. The session addresses a critical gap in clinical practice: up to 86% of NAFLD patients may present with normal ALT levels, yet many providers rely solely on traditional reference ranges for screening and monitoring. Through case-based discussion and evidence review, participants will learn practical strategies for accurate test interpretation and how targeted provider education can improve early detection and management of NAFLD.

Program Objectives:

1. Evaluate the clinical significance of serum uric acid levels as an independent risk factor for NAFLD development and progression, understanding the 2.1-fold increased odds associated with hyperuricemia
2. Apply evidence-based strategies for monitoring patients with NAFLD using appropriate intervals for liver enzyme reassessment, fibrosis scoring, and specialist referral criteria
3. Implement provider education interventions that address common misinterpretations of liver function tests and promote guideline-concordant care for NAFLD patients.

Speaker: Mark Kellogg, PhD, MLS(ASCP), DABCC
Director of Quality Programs
Boston Children's Hospital

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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1:30-2:30pm

Sponsored by Beckman

Why QC Keeps Getting Worse

A global survey of more than 1,000 laboratories (including more than 400 labs in the USA), has revealed that the practice of QC is degrading, not improving.

Program Objectives:

1. Identify the worst habits of QC that generate waste and delay test results
2. Contrast the practice of QC in the USA vs the rest of the world
3. Adopt new QC practices that reduce waste, false rejection, and expense

Speaker: Sten Westgard, MS
Director of Client Services

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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3:00-4:00pm

Sponsored by Beckman

Westgard Rules at 45: These Are Not (my) Father's Rules

In 1981, the multirule QC procedure was introduced by a young upstart named James O. Westgard, Ph.D. 45 Years later, these rules still impact the daily lives of laboratory professionals. In this retrospective, Sten Westgard, MS, reviews the old rules and explains the new rules that are replacing them.

Program Objectives:

1. Identify the old rules that made up the 1981 Westgard Rules
2. Explain why "warning rules" are outdated and wasteful in today's laboratories
3. Adopt and implement a more modern "Westgard Sigma Rules"

Speaker: Sten Westgard, MS
Director of Client Services

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

Hematology

10:30-11:30am

Sponsored by Diagnostica Stago Inc.

Precision in Practice: Advancing Quality and Compliance Across Coagulation Laboratories

This session is an engaging and fast-paced deep dive into elevating quality and compliance in coagulation testing. Through real-world case studies, practical troubleshooting tips, and clear guidance on CLIA, CAP, ISO, and CLSI expectations, this session empowers laboratory professionals to tighten workflows, reduce errors, and strengthen patient safety. Whether you're new to hemostasis or a seasoned expert, you'll leave with actionable strategies you can implement immediately to boost accuracy, readiness, and confidence in your coagulation laboratory.

Program Objectives:

1. Analyze various sources of error in coagulation testing and their impact on quality assurance
2. Apply regulatory requirements and scientific guidelines to establish compliant quality control and proficiency testing practices in coagulation laboratories
3. Evaluate case-based scenarios to identify compliance risks and implement corrective actions to improve accuracy and standardization in coagulation testing workflows

Speaker: LaShanta Brice, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)SH

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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1:30-2:30pm

Sponsored by Alcor

The Clinical Value of ESR and the Benefits of Modern ESR Testing

The erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) is a widely used, low-cost indicator of inflammation and sickness. This presentation reviews the clinical value of ESR and C-reactive protein (CRP) and examines technological advances that improve ESR testing accuracy, turnaround time, sample stability, and laboratory workflow.

Program Objectives:

1. Discuss the importance and clinical relevance of erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) testing
2. Review the clinical value of ESR and C-reactive protein (CRP) in patient assessment
3. Discuss advances in ESR testing technology and their benefits for sample stability and laboratory workflow

Speaker: Susan Evans, PhD, FADLM
Scientific Advisor, Alcor Scientific

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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3:00-4:00pm

Sponsored by Beckman Coulter

Hematology Case Studies

Overview of histograms (Coulter principle) and scatterplots (VCS 360 technology). Case studies discussion using patient medical background, CBC/ Auto-differential results and manual smear review findings.

Program Objectives:

1. Interpret information presented on histograms and Scatterplots
2. Differentiate between normal and abnormal Histograms and Scatterplots
3. Apply Histograms and Scatterplots knowledge with available patient medical background and manual smear review findings to identify possible diagnosis.

Speaker: Luz Flaherty, MPH, MLS(ASCP)
Staff Technical Product Specialist, Beckman

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

Microbiology

10:30-11:30am
Sponsored by Hologic

Break the STI Cycle with Accurate *Mycoplasma genitalium* (M. gen) Testing

In this session, the speaker will discuss the clinical presentation, prevalence, guidelines, testing, and treatment for Mycoplasma genitalium.

Program Objectives:

1. Describe the clinical presentation and prevalence of *M. genitalium*
2. List the guidelines for testing *M. genitalium*
3. Discuss the treatment for *M genitalium*

Speaker: Diana R. Hernandez, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and Internal Medicine
Hologic

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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1:30-2:30pm

Back to Basics – Respiratory Cultures

This presentation will provide some basic insights into some of the common questions about respiratory culture work-up and reporting

Program Objectives:

1. Describe uses of Gram stain to determine culture acceptability
2. Discuss the utility of quantitative cultures
3. Discuss the impact of different reporting practices

Speaker: Kevin Alby, PhD, D(ABMM)
Director of Microbiology, Brown University Health

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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3:00-4:00pm

Strongyloidiasis, Hiding in Plain Sight

This presentation will aim to walk you through a challenging disseminated Strongyloidiasis case with an interesting clinical presentation.

Program Objectives:

1. Discuss the epidemiology and life cycle of Strongyloides.
2. Describe the various clinical presentations of Strongyloidiasis infection.
3. Explain the treatment and prognosis of Strongyloidiasis

Speaker: Sara W. F. Geffert, MD, MS, D(ABMM), M(ASCP)
Assistant Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and Internal Medicine
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Brown University Health Medical Center

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

Transfusion Medicine

10:30-11:30am

The Intersection of Organ Donation and Clinical Laboratory Science

The organ donation process relies significantly on the expertise and services provided by blood banks and laboratories. New advances in organ donation and organ machine perfusion are only increasing that reliance.

Program Objectives:

1. Describe the organ donation process at a high level.
2. Discuss the testing and services relied upon for the assessment of organs for transplant and for organ machine perfusion.
3. Illustrate the growing need for blood products in organ donation and organ machine perfusion.

Speaker: Christopher C. Curran, CTPC, CTBS, CTOP
Senior Vice President, Organ
New England Donor Services

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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1:30-2:30pm

Challenging Immunohematology Cases in the Setting of Stem Cell Transplantation

Discussing a case of ABO discrepancy and another case of RHD discrepancy and how stem cell played role in these discrepancies in an unexpected way

Program Objectives:

1. Describe how stem cell transplantation can affect typing
2. Apply known data from patient's medical history to resolve a discrepancy 3.
3. Compare different genotyping methods and identify pitfalls

Speaker: Nalan Yurtsever, MD
Assistant Professor of Laboratory Medicine
Yale School of Medicine

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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3:00-4:00pm

Epidemiologic Survey of Babesia in Adult Blood Donors in Rhode Island After Implementation of NAT

This presentation will address an epidemiologic and demographic surveillance of Babesia in healthy adult blood donors in Rhode Island after the implementation of screening of all blood donors in 2018 at the Rhode Island Blood Center

Speaker: Christian P Nixon, MD, PhD
Director Transfusion Medicine & Coagulation, Rhode Island & Miriam Hospitals

Program Objectives:

1. Explain the threat that Babesia represents to the safety of the U.S. blood supply.
2. Describe different testing strategies and the efficacy of NAT in preventing Babesia in a highly Babesia endemic state.
3. Discuss the risk factors for contracting Babesia as a healthy adult in Rhode Island, including spatial heterogeneity and other factors such as age and gender

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

Monday, March 30, 2026 12:00pm

Luncheon Speaker

From Empathy to Impact: Design Thinking for Laboratory Professionals

Allison G. Butler, Ph.D

Design thinking is a human-centered, iterative approach to solving complex problems—one that is especially valuable in healthcare and laboratory settings. Design thinking helps clinical laboratory professionals see their work through the eyes of clinicians and patients, prototype and test ideas rapidly before full implementation, and foster a culture of continuous improvement and innovation. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to apply design thinking concepts in their own laboratory practice.

Program Objectives:

1. Describe the key phases of the design thinking process—empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and test—and explain how design thinking supports innovation and problem-solving in clinical laboratory settings.
2. Apply human-centered design methods to identify and reframe challenges within the laboratory workflow based on the needs of patients, clinicians, and/or laboratory professionals.
3. Discuss real-world examples of design thinking in healthcare and laboratory contexts and identify opportunities to use similar approaches in their own work environments.

Allison Butler is a Professor of Psychology at Bryant University and a certified design thinking facilitator and practitioner. As a human-centered design and innovation consultant, she designs and delivers experiential training in design thinking, user experience, leadership, and innovation strategy for a wide range of audiences across medical, corporate, and educational settings.

At Bryant University, Allison directs the Innovation and Design Experience for All (IDEA) Program, the university's signature design thinking initiative, which has trained more than 13,000 undergraduates since 20

Level of Instruction: Intermediate One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Chemistry/General

9:00-10:00am

Sponsored by Roche Diagnostics

Current applications and future potential of Alzheimer's disease biomarkers

The presentation emphasizes the importance of early Alzheimer's diagnosis and how fluid biomarkers and imaging can be used for assessment. It outlines clinical guidelines' focus on testing patients with cognitive decline; it details how AD fluid biomarkers can be integrated in laboratory and clinical practice and what future biomarkers are needed.

Program Objectives:

1. Discuss the importance of early AD diagnosis.
2. Describe how different types of AD tests can be integrated into clinical laboratory and practice.
3. Explain the future of AD testing.

Speaker: Michael Kelliher, PhD, DABCC, FADLM
Medical Scientific Liaison
Roche Diagnostics

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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10:30-11:30am

Iron, Hepcidin, and Cardiovascular Risk

This session will explore the relationship between iron and hepcidin and how dysregulatory states can increase the risk of heart disease.

Program Objectives:

1. Recall fundamental physiological concepts related to iron metabolism
2. Discuss the impact of inflammation on iron and hepcidin levels
3. Relate iron and hepcidin dysregulation to cardiovascular disease

Speaker: Kyle B Riding, PhD, MLS(ASCP)CM
Clinical Associate Professor & Program Director
University of New Hampshire

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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1:30-2:30pm

The Clinical Laboratory's Impact on Health Literacy

Medical Laboratory professionals use a language unique to their practice. This session will explore how empowering patients to better understand elements of that language enhance health literacy and ultimately health outcomes.

Program Objectives:

1. Define Health Literacy
2. Discuss how medical laboratory professionals can enhance health literacy
3. Relate health literacy to positive patient outcomes

Speaker: Kyle B Riding, PhD, MLS(ASCP)CM
Clinical Associate Professor & Program Director
University of New Hampshire

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

Hematology

9:00-10:00am

Sponsored by Sysmex

Pre & Post-Analytical Variables in Hemostasis Testing

A focused review of key factors influencing hemostasis test accuracy, highlighting common pre- and post-analytical pitfalls and practical strategies laboratories can use to reduce variability, improve result reliability, and strengthen overall patient care.

Speaker: Alexandra Reese, MLS(ASCP)cm
Solutions Manager
Sysmex America

Program Objectives:

1. Identify critical processes involved in hemostasis testing
2. Discuss key attributes to the pre- & post-analytical phases of hemostasis testing
3. Recognize considerations that must be applied to pre- and post-analytical variables, to standardize hemostasis testing

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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10:30-11:30am

Flow Cytometry: immunophenotype of Acute Myeloid Leukemia Including Those with Defining Genetic Abnormalities

With the tremendous improvement in instrumentation and reagents during the past several decades, flow cytometry has become a powerful immunophenotypic tool in the diagnosis of leukemia. Correlation with morphology, cytogenetic and molecular findings is necessary for accurate interpretation of flow cytometry

Program Objectives:

1. Discuss how flow cytometry is integrated with other morphologic and laboratory modalities to establish a diagnosis of AML.
2. State the relationship between aberrant immunophenotypes identified by flow cytometry and defining genetic abnormalities in AML.
3. Discuss the WHO Classification of Tumours (5th Edition)

Speaker: Karen Ferreira PhD, MS, MLS (ASCP)
Medical Director, Clinical Flow Cytometry Instructor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School
Mass General Brigham

Level of Instruction: Advanced — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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1:30-2:30pm

Non-neoplastic Disorders of Granulocytes and Platelets with Peripheral Blood Manifestations

Review non-neoplastic disorders of platelets and granulocytes which specifically can present with peripheral blood abnormalities.

Program Objectives:

1. Describe basic granulocyte and platelet ultrastructure and function
2. Discuss morphological changes of granulocytes and platelets and their related non-neoplastic disorder/syndrome
3. Review clinical presentation, pathophysiology and/or genetic/molecular abnormalities of select non-neoplastic platelet and granulocyte disorders

Speaker: Dariusz R Stachurski MD
System Medical Director, Clinical Laboratories, Brown University Health
Hematopathologist and surgical pathologist, Brown University Health
Associate professor (clinical), Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

Microbiology

9:00-10:00am
Sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics

A New Paradigm:
HPV Primary Testing, Genotype Risk, and Self-Collection in Cervical Cancer Screening

This session reviews the updated cervical cancer screening recommendations from USPSTF, ACS, ASCCP, and HHS, focusing on the shift toward HPV primary testing, the clinical value of extended genotyping, and the emerging role of self-collected vaginal samples in modern risk-based screening.

Program Objectives:

1. Describe the current US cervical cancer screening Guidelines.
2. List the different HPV genotypes and relate their risk to cervical cancer.
3. Discuss the efficacy and self-collect vaginal sample for cervical cancer screening.

Speaker: John Birdsall, ND
Medical Science Liaison
Abbott Laboratories

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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10:30-11:30am

"Parasite AI Has Entered the Chat":
Parasitology Finally Leads the Field in Clinical Microbiology

Artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms have shown value in various disciplines of pathology, with diagnostic parasitology actually leading the field within microbiology. This session will explore three such advents of AI in clinical parasitology that are in use or in development. Such applications include the trichrome stain, modified acid-fast stain, and the wet mount examination, each for stool preparations.

Program Objectives:

1. Review the use of traditional parasitology testing for gastrointestinal parasites
2. Recognize the value and role of AI for trichrome stain interpretation and screening
3. Describe the diagnostic yield and role of wet-mount screening with AI

Speaker: Marc Roger Couturier Ph.D., D(ABMM)
NorDx/MaineHealth Professor of Internal Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine
MaineHealth, NorDx

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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1:30-2:30pm

Interesting, intriguing, and possibly disgusting cases in parasitology

This session is a case-based presentation of unusual, uncommon, or atypical presentations of less common parasitic diseases. Cases are meant to be educational and push the limit of knowledge for most attendees. And most of all...disgusting and awesome!

Program Objectives:

1. Review the clinical presentation of parasitic infections
2. Recognize relevant features of medically important parasites
3. Identify the challenging parasites received in the clinical laboratory & the appropriate testing methods

Speaker: Marc Roger Couturier Ph.D., D(ABMM)
NorDx/MaineHealth Professor of Internal Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine
MaineHealth, NorDx

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

Transfusion Medicine

9:00-10:00am

Manufacturing and Use of Cellular Therapy Products

This presentation will explore the various cellular therapy products and how they are being used to treat and cure disease. The talk will include an overview of how products are manufactured and tested at various stages as they move through the regulatory milestones

Program Objectives:

1. Identify human cellular products being used for the treatment of various diseases and conditions
2. Discuss manufacturing and testing procedures required to ensure safe and effective products are released.
3. Review the various regulatory pathways and how manufacturing and testing are impacted at each stage

Speaker: Olive J Sturtevant MHP, MLS(ASCP) SBB, SLS, ASQ(CQA)
Sr. Director
Dana Farber Cancer Institute- Cell Manipulation Core Facility

Level of Instruction: Basic — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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10:30-11:30am

Sponsored by Bio-Rad

Antibody Identification: Should we Automate?

Discussion of manual antibody identification vs. automating the process. Pros and Cons to both and where the trend is going…

Program Objectives:

1. Describe the manual process of antibody identification.
2. Discuss how antibody identification can be automated.
3. Recognize and list some benefits to automating antibody identification.

Speaker: Melissa JA Laufer; BS, BB/SBB (ASCP)
Senior Transfusion Medicine Technical Specialist
Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

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1:30-2:30pm

Sponsored by American Red Cross

Empower Group O Care for Your Hospital

This presentation will facilitate understanding of how to best manage Type O negative and Type O positive red cell units for routine use and during shortages, including how to safely switch patients to O positive units to avoid depleting your inventory.

Program Objectives:

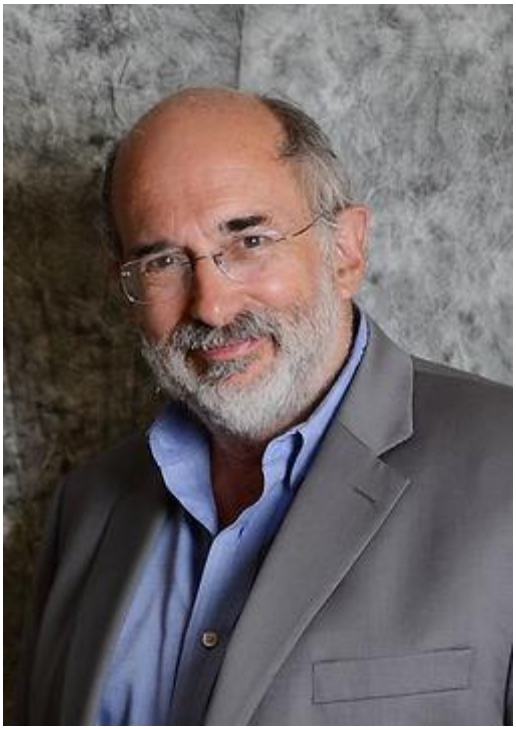
1. List reasons for proactively managing your hospital's Group O blood supply.
2. State why a more diverse blood donor base is important.
3. Summarize the risks of Rh alloimmunization in recipients.

Speaker: F. Bernadette West, MD
Regional Medical Director, CT / RI region
American Red Cross

Level of Instruction: Intermediate — One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 12:00pm

Luncheon Speaker



Health Policy for the Clinical Laboratory Scientist: An Introduction to What Happens in Health Care, How it Happens, and Why.

Michael Fine, MD

Dr. Fine will provide a close look at healthcare coverage including Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance along with our healthcare delivery system and public health outcomes.

Program Objectives:

1. Describe the differences between Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance.
2. Articulate the difference between health insurance and the health services delivery system.
3. Explain the value of primary care as part of the delivery system and its impact on health care cost and public health outcomes

Dr. Michael Fine is a writer, community organizer, and family physician. He is the chief health strategist for the City of Central Falls, RI, and a former Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, 2011–2015. He has been the President and Board Chair Member of Primary Care for All Americans since 2023. He is currently the Board Vice Chair and Co-Founder of the Scituate Health Alliance. He is the recipient of the Barbara Starfield Award, the John Cunningham Award, and the June Rockwell Levy Public Service Award

Level of Instruction: Intermediate One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour

Closing Keynote

2:45pm

On Behalf of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science of Central New England
we are happy to announce this year's Closing Keynote

Reflections on My Life as a Medical Laboratory Professional

Karen Ferreira PhD, MS, MLS(ASCP)

In 1984 I was not sure how much passion I had for the field of "Medical Technology". However, I soon learned that I was proud to be an integral member of the health care team. For the next 42 years I crafted a path; my intent was to make a difference. Although the path was not straight and had obstacles, there have many triumphs and shining moments as well. I am proud to be a Medical Laboratory Professional. I will also discuss the impact of laboratory testing, lab stewardship and career paths available to the MLS.

Program Objectives:

1. Discuss the statistics and breadth of clinical laboratory testing.
2. Recognize the importance of Laboratory Stewardship.
3. Discover the endless career paths available to the MLS.

Karen Ferreira is the Medical Director of the integrated clinical flow cytometry laboratory at Mass General Brigham and holds a Harvard Medical School faculty position as Instructor of Pathology. Prior to this she held the position of Scientific Director of Hematology at Brown University Health/Lifespan Academic Medical Center and faculty appointment as Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University. Her tenure at Rhode Island Hospital exceeded 40 years.

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

One (1) P.A.C.E. ® contact hour