



President's Message

Stephanie K Mabry

2020 Vision: Looking Forward to the New Year Ahead!

The end of a year is always a time to reflect on accomplishments of the past year, but I also like to look forward to the excitement of the year to come, and there are many exciting events to look forward to with ASCLS in early 2020!

First, CLEC (Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference) will be occurring February 27-29. This conference provides clinical laboratory science faculty, administrators, advisors, and others involved in education an opportunity to network with other educators, identify trends and strategies, enhance teaching skills, and develop innovative instructional techniques.



Additionally, it will be hosted in Orlando this year, which will be a welcome reprieve from the Michigan winter weather! If you are involved in education, this event is not to be missed! More information can be found at:

<https://www.ascls.org/education-meetings/clec-all>

Next, the Legislative Symposium will be held in Washington, DC this March 16-17. This collaborative event allows laboratory professionals from a number of different organizations to present a unified voice on behalf of the laboratory community to our federal Representatives and Senators. Monday of the event provides background information on key issues and the how-tos of lobbying, and Tuesday of the event is when laboratorians of all levels, from students just starting in their career to well-established laboratory managers and administrators, converge on Capitol Hill to make our concerns known within Congress. While many may find this process daunting at first, this event becomes a perennial favorite of all who attend!

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Left: 2019 ASCLS-Michigan Members in Washington DC for Legislative Symposium

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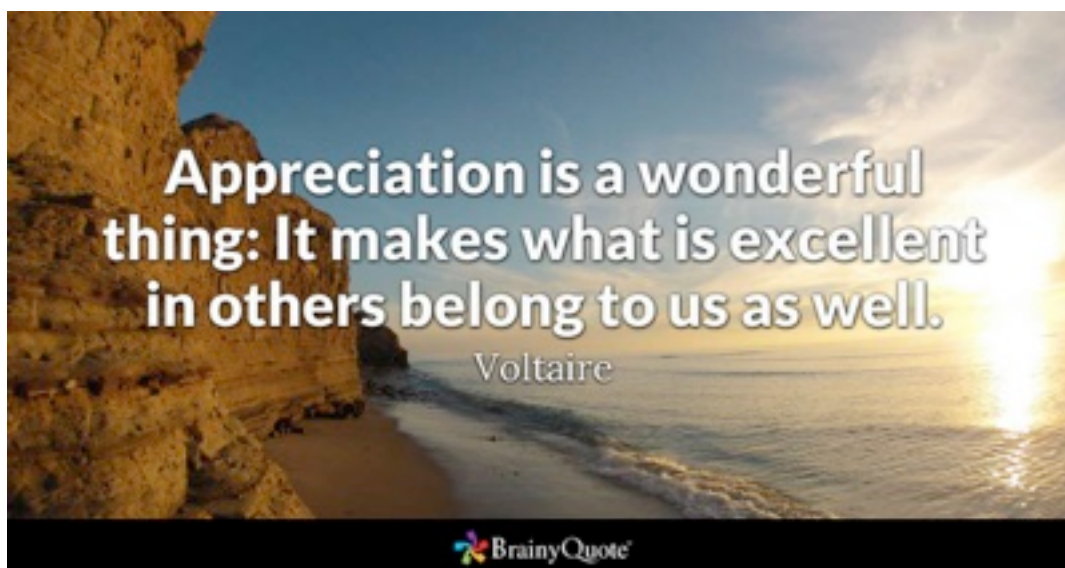
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Michigan is often well-represented at the Legislative Symposium, and if you would like to attend as well and add to the visible voice of the laboratory community, visit: <https://www.ascls.org/advocacy-issues/legislative-symposium>

Finally, our very own ASCLS-Michigan Annual Conference is April 15-17, 2020. Held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo, this event offers 3 days of continuing education sessions, two days of exhibits, and a newly formatted Career Symposium on Friday the 17th. The conference program and additional information will be available soon, and in the meantime, I encourage you to nominate a colleague for one of the ASCLS-Michigan Awards, which are

presented at the Celebration of the Profession Reception at the conference. There are a number of awards ranging from recognizing the wonderful students we have through the Joseph Miller Memorial or Martha Roulund Award, to our mentors through the Donna Duberg Award, or even Technical and Scientific Literature Awards. A full list of Awards and requirements can be found at <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/awards>. Our profession has a lot of individuals worth celebrating; resolve to share your appreciation for these individuals and their successes with us all by nominating them for an award!

Happy New Year to all!



**American
Society for
Clinical
Laboratory
Science
Michigan**

ASCLS-Michigan *Newslinks*

A bi-monthly publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science - Michigan. Deadlines for articles are the 20th of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, & Dec. Articles must have name of author. Anonymous letters will not be published. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. Articles appearing in *Newslinks* represent the opinion of the author and may not represent the opinion of the society.

Membership: Join ASCLS-Michigan by visiting the ASCLS web site:
www.ascls.org/membership/app.pdf

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(\$10 annually) should be made payable to ASCLS-Michigan and sent to:
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ASCLS-MI Leadership: Visit our web site at
www.ascls-michigan.org

for a complete listing and contact information for all ASCLS-MI board members and a wealth of other information on the Society.

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Clinical Laboratory Science

A focus on what is happening in our profession

Featuring articles from Scientific Assembly Chairs.

Materials from all members are also welcomed. Submit to editor. See page 2 for details.



Current Issues in POC

Nick Wesener, POC Scientific Assembly Representative

In the past, Point of Care (POC) testing menus were limited to glucose testing and a few lateral flow assays. POC programs tended to be managed by a single technologist who concurrently complete their POC responsibilities along with central lab testing. Today testing platforms and assays available for use have expanded immensely; blood gases, comprehensive metabolic profiles, ACT for heparinized cardiac patients, thromblelastography for blood product utilization, and confirmatory molecular influenza testing to name a few. This test menu expansion is an effort to provide results that will impact patient care immediately in order to improve outcomes. Organizations have begun to develop POC departments to manage all of this testing with additional staff and resources. POC employees do not necessarily perform patient testing, but serve as professional laboratory advisors to POC testing personnel (e.g., physicians, nurses, medical assistants, and/or techs). They are responsible for ensuring testing is compliant, reliable and accurate to improve patient care.

Developing a culture of good laboratory practice is challenging in the point of care setting. POC programs tend to not have direct authority over those who are performing the testing. Therefore, it is necessary to develop working relationships with hospital leadership to be able to convey the importance of regulatory and testing guidelines. One concept is the formation of a POC steering committee that meets regularly with multi-disciplinary contributors. The goal of such a committee is to have open lines of communication in order to create an understanding of these requirements. While a simple concept, it is often difficult to coordinate with the busy schedules of health professionals.

A recent article in "CAP Today" listed non-waived (moderately complex) personnel competency as one of the top cited deficiencies for POC programs¹. In an ideal world, non-waived competencies could be assessed by a qualified POC employee. In reality this is not possible, either due to a lack of a POC program, and/or because of the large volume of testing personnel. High school graduates are able to perform moderate complex testing, therefore CAP requires that the person assessing competency must meet the requirements of a technical consultant. A technical consultant at minimum must have a science related Bachelor's degree with 2 years of testing experience.

One method that is often employed is the "train the trainer" concept. The first step is to identify technical consultants for the non-waived testing sites. With staff turnover and requirements of a technical consultant it can be difficult to maintain a trainer list for moderate complex testing. Annual training sessions can be held with the main trainers. This allows for opportunities to discuss expectations of competencies and new policy changes. This should include the necessary 6-point competency checklists (direct observation, review of test results, review of QC/PT records, maintenance, testing of unknown sample, and troubleshooting), unknowns, and job aids that are to be used during personnel competencies. POC instrumentation has come a long way and may have onboard QC to help validate the quality of results with minimal intervention from the user. This is especially true for blood gas analyzers that perform a QC after each patient. The quality of test results is heavily reliant on the testing personnel to reduce pre-analytic errors. A comprehensive competency program can help to deter these pre-analytic errors.

Other than performing liquid or equivalent QC, how can it be determined if a POC analyzer is performing as expected? Most POC test results have a central lab counterpart (e.g., glucose, A1C, and electrolytes). It is imperative that these results be analogous. If not possible, then a consistent bias should be present to allow physicians to utilize the POC test results. Utilizing a data mining technique that compares coincidental central lab and POC tests performed at similar times, is an option. Comparative analysis with the central lab can be conducted with existing patient data, eliminating the need to collect new samples. Data mining in this way has been extremely useful at our facility.² We have used it in situations such as evaluating the glucometer's accuracy in patients in intensive care units, resolving discrepant test results that were questioned by a physician, and evaluating reference ranges. The same troubleshooting capabilities in the central lab are not always possible for POC tests. That is when innovative techniques like data mining need to be employed.

A problematic and prevalent issue in POC testing is patient identification. This is especially true for testing associated with unsolicited orders from the hospital information system (HIS). Unsolicited orders typically use the patient's financial, billing, or encounter number. Financial numbers are often different than the patient's medical record number (MRN). Confusion occurs with POC operators because other patient applications within the hospital are more likely to use the MRN. When barcodes for the financial number are not available the operator must manually input the patient ID into the POC device, allowing for the possibility of transcription errors.

Assuming the facility has a middleware system for POC result management, these ID errors will go to an error page within the middleware. Depending on the circumstance the ID can be corrected in the middleware and then uploaded to the patient's chart. Unfortunately, these error pages do not tend to be reviewed 24/7, so results could remain undocumented for an extended period of time.

Positive patient verification on some devices has helped combat these ID errors. The principle is when a patient's financial number is scanned their demographics will be displayed on the instrument. This allows the operator to confirm the correct patient ID. Unfortunately, many devices do not have this functionality.

One solution is to provide a patient wristband that has a 2D barcode containing both the financial and MRN numbers. This option is limited by the analyzer's ability to scan a 2D barcode. Another option is to provide an on-demand financial number barcode. With

regards to POC tests such as blood gases and urinalysis, the on-demand barcode has been helpful, since these tests are not normally performed at the patient bedside. Operators are able to access a label print area within the patient's chart and print a POC label as needed. The operator can affix the label to the patient specimen and scan the barcoded financial number when performing the POC test.

The POC issues discussed are only the tip of the iceberg. For POC programs to be successful, they must continue to search for unique countermeasures and maintain a reliance on new technologies.

References

1. Albert, C. (2019, November). Personnel paraodox and more: POC pitfalls. CAP Today. <http://www.captodayonline.com/>
2. Schroeder, L. F., Giacherio, D., Gianchandani, R., Engoren, M., & Shah, N. H. (2016, April). Postmarket Surveillance of Point-of-Care Glucose Meters through Analysis of Electronic Medical Records. Clinical Chemistry. doi: 10.1373/clinchem.2015.251827

Point of Care

The POC issues discussed are only the tip of the iceberg. For POC programs to be successful, they must continue to search for unique countermeasures and maintain a reliance on new technologies.



Michigan's Laboratory Heritage

Historical information shared by Kathy Doig



The first test for syphilis was the Kahn test, an immunoprecipitation assay. It was invented by Reuben L. Kahn, Sc.D. while he was director for the Michigan State Department of Health in 1923. The development of a test for syphilis in the time frame when a treatment, penicillin, became available was an important contribution to medical science. Later Dr. Kahn directed the laboratories of the University Hospitals at the University of Michigan where he spent the majority of his career. He retired from U of M in 1956 but continued his research there until 1968. He moved to be professor at Howard University, a historically black university, until his second retirement in 1973, six years before his death.

He was a supporter of racial equality throughout his career, stemming from his experiences as a Jew in Lithuania as a child. Kahn's concern with racial equality was demonstrated as early as 1928, when he hired the first black person to work in the University Medical Center laboratories.

In 1965, Dr. Kahn spoke at the annual of meeting of, then, the American Society for Medical Technology in Cincinnati while still at the University of Michigan. His topic was Autoimmune Serologic Reactions with Lipid Antigen.

Read more at <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/b/bhlead/umich-bhl-851598?view=text>

SERUM DIAGNOSIS OF SYPHILIS BY PRECIPITATION

Governing Principles
Procedure and Clinical Application
of the
Kahn Precipitation Test

BY
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IMMUNOLOGIST, BUREAU OF LABORATORIES
Michigan Department of Health



Reuben Kahn, 1887-1979

ASCLS Michigan Awards and Scholarships

With the new year upon us, let's start nominating! Let's celebrate all of our hard-working individuals who go out of their way every day to make a difference. Is there someone you know who is an exceptional professional that deserves recognition? Does this person go above and beyond every day for patients, students, and other professionals? This celebration of the profession is a time to showcase what being a medical laboratory scientist is all about. If you would like to recognize an individual who is fully dedicated to this profession and constantly displays passion, devotion, innovation and makes a difference in this field; please nominate them for a well-deserved award. Your nomination is vital and significant!

Scholarships and awards require completion of an awards application and may require a nomination letter.

For other requirements and information, please visit: <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/awards>

**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS NOMINATIONS/APPLICATIONS TO
NICOLE EADEH niea@med.umich.edu**

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED* DUE DATE IS MARCH 1st, 2020

NOMINATE NOW!

AWARDS

ASCLS-Michigan Member of the Year

Recognizes individuals who have significantly contributed to the mission and goals of the society. Formerly known as CLS of the Year. A letter of nomination is required.

Eligibility: The recipient must be active in professional, civic, and non-professional activities of the society. The recipient will be recognized during the ASCLS-MI awards ceremony and at the national ASCLS annual meeting in Charlotte, NC.

Nomination Information: <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/member-of-the-year/>

Donna Duberg Mentorship Award

This award has been in existence since 1990! The purpose of this award is to honor a person who exemplifies characteristics of mentorship in ASCLS, including the ability to guide other in our profession and enlighten them in our professional society of ASCLS.

Eligibility: Recipient is chosen by a vote of the past five award recipients. Mentorship must take place within the organization.

Nomination Information: <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/donna-duberg-mentorship/>

Lifetime Achievement Award *

This pristine award honors a member who has excelled in the profession, helped advance education, and has set the standard of excellence in the society of ASCLS. Previous recipients of the award include; Linda Goossen (2018), Deanna Klosinki (2017), Lynne Williams (2016), Roslyn McQueen (2015) and Suzanne Butch (2014).

Eligibility: Evidence of advancing, promoting, and improving the profession. Living during submission of the application, however does not need to currently be active in the profession. No self-nominations allowed, needs at least 20 years in the profession or ASCLS.

Nomination Information: <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/lifetime-achievement/>

*RECIPIENT VOTED FOR AT THE FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. SUBMIT NOMINATION NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1st.

Martha Roulund Award

Named after Martha Roulund, a strong student supporter, this award honors student who is becoming a first-year professional member. This student shows great potential contributing to the profession and our professional society.

Eligibility: Nominees will be submitted by education coordinators and ASCLS board members. The awards committee will establish selection criteria and determine the number of recipients based on budget. Student must be becoming a FYP in the next membership cycle.

Nomination Information: <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/martha-roulund/>

Pam Agren Inspiration Award

Honoring the memory of Pamela K. Agren, this award began in 1999 to recognize the "behind the scenes" activities of a person who greatly benefits the society. This person may not always receive the recognition, but ASCLS-MI would not be able to do it without them.

Eligibility: Recipient is chosen by vote of the past 5 recipients and is actively involved behind the scenes. Nomination letter is required.

Nomination Information: <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/pam-agren-inspirational/>

Scientific/Technical/ Literature Research Award

This award recognizes the project development contributions made in the technical, education, and management aspects of the laboratory.

Eligibility: Any current ASCLS-Michigan member (including students) who have developed a project, developing a new assay, original education software, analyzing management problems, etc.

Nomination Information: <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/new-page/>

Clinical Poster

This award highlights projects, cases, studies, etc. completed by undergraduate or graduate MLS professionals. These projects showcase the various different laboratory disciplines.

Guidelines and the application can be found here:

<http://www.ascls-michigan.org/ascls-michigan-board-appreciation/>

Eligibility: Undergraduate of graduate MLS professionals. 50 % of the group must be ASCLS-Michigan members.

For more information: <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/clinical-poster/>

ASCLS Michigan Board Appreciation*

Eligibility: Non-member (e.g. pathologist, other laboratorians, vendors, institutions, etc.) who has contributed significantly to the profession and/or society.

*RECIPIENT VOTED FOR AT THE FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. SUBMIT NOMINATION NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1st.

Please get more information here: <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/ascls-michigan-board-appreciation/>

SCHOLARSHIPS

NOTE: Scholarship Nomination Deadline is different than for awards. It is February 1, 2020

Joseph Miller Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility: An outstanding medical laboratory science student completing their clinical internship in the calendar year in which the award is presented. Recipient will receive a certificate along with a monetary gift determined by funds available.

Please nominate here: <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/scholarships>

Student Forum Scholarship

Eligibility: Juniors or seniors in an MLS program, or MLT students, who are ASCLS-MI members in good standing, who register for and attend the ASCLS-MI state meeting.

Three scholarship recipients are selected (1st=\$300, 2nd=\$200, 3rd=\$100).

Please nominate here: <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/scholarships>



ASCLS Michigan Board of Directors Nominations for 2020 BOD!

Nominate and Volunteer to Better Your Profession

Have you ever thought about becoming more involved with ASCLS-MI, but not sure how? Do you want to develop your leadership skills, be able to network closely with other ASCLS-MI members, or make an impact on your profession? Or maybe you know someone that has always wanted to be more involved?

Consider running or nominating someone for an elected position for ASCLS Michigan's Board of Directors. Being a part of the Board of Directors gives you the opportunity to promote the medical laboratory science profession, engage our organization's members, and develop leadership skills.

The Board of Directors is an elected volunteer group of professionals within the state organization that have various medical laboratory science backgrounds. Their roles including promoting membership activities and communicating organization updates to our membership community at large.

**If you are interested in becoming involved,
check out the open positions on the ASCLS Michigan**

[Elected Positions Webpage](#)

If you are thinking this is your year, know someone that is fitting for one of these positions, or have questions about a position, please contact Lindsey Haveman at foosla.lf@gmail.com

Nominations must be submitted to the Committee by February 22, 2020

American Society for
Clinical Laboratory Science



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Moving? Please forward new address
to the *Newslinks* Editor



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS FOR OUR
2020 MEETING IN
KALAMAZOO !**

APRIL 15-17 2020