



## President's Message

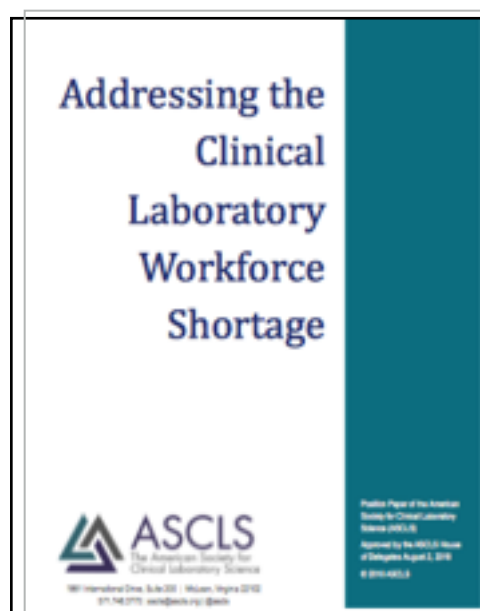
Jerry  
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To start this article, as it will be my last as your President, I give thanks those who helped me greatly. I know now what it entails to oversee such a prestigious organization. It has been my honor to serve you in this capacity. I will remain forever an ASCLS member, for it is what defines me/us. It is the ultimate laboratory family. This also means there is a change in leadership the 1st of August with Stephanie Mabry as the incoming president. She is an excellent choice and is suited well to accomplish great things, however this does not mean she can do it all alone. I can say it definitely takes a team and she deserve nothing less than our support over the next year. To those of you who have served in this role before me a Great Thanks goes to you as well, because without such great leadership our society would have suffered.

Our profession is experiencing some challenges but the ASCLS is there to help us with them. The number one priority is the up coming need for qualified and trained laboratorians. The workplace shortages will only get worse in the coming years, when we start to see those highly skilled and dedicated professionals retire. The ASCLS has taken our concerns to the capital, and maybe we can see some action. They have

written "Addressing the Clinical Laboratory Workforce Shortage" to help explain our issue.

(<https://www.ascls.org/position-papers/321-laboratory-workforce/440-addressing-the-clinical-laboratory-workforce-shortage>)



I will stress, we need to show ourselves. We need to show there are many faces behind a laboratory test result. That we are an important piece to the healthcare puzzle. I know you do talk with family and friends about the important work that you do, all I ask is you also take this message to the future. I want you to talk to students in the senior and junior high schools. We can make a difference just interacting with science classes or career fairs. I have personally volunteered to speak about our profession at my local high school, using the guidance counselors help. This is the first step, get evolved, and take pride in what we do. Its very important to our patients and community.

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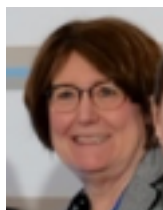
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# Clinical Laboratory Science

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.



## Ensuring Quality of Specimens Not Collected by Laboratory Staff

Barbara Mannor, Generalist Scientific Assembly

A Medical Laboratory Science candidate must possess the ability to work quickly, carefully and be self sufficient. This is not a complete description of what it takes to be a successful MLS/MLT but it is a good start. Many MLS programs look to foster these qualities in their students and employers require them of their employees. Quick, careful, and self sufficient are core principles that the clinical laboratory was founded on. While fast turn around times and accurate results are always going to be a priority of diagnostic testing, being self sufficient has become increasingly difficult. With the the shift of specimen collection outside the hospital lab, it could be argued that being a team player is more important than being self sufficient.

Historically, blood collection for the purpose of diagnostic testing within the hospital was the domain of the laboratory. In the past MLS/MLT and phlebotomist performed most or all of the phlebotomy, but over the last ten years this has increasingly become a shared responsibility with Nursing. Because of the difficulty in getting the specimens collected on time due to the reduction of phlebotomy staffing many MLS members thought it was a good idea until they realized that they no longer have the same control of specimen quality. If a lab employee collects a bad specimen, a laboratory supervisor is able to provide the appropriate education and counseling to correct the problem. When nursing staff requires this type of intervention, the laboratory must rely on the managers of another department to understand the issue and correct the situation.

Looking on the internet I found many other laboratories are facing or have had to face this same issue. In CAP Today from February 2001 An article

“Back to the drawing board. Hospitals rethink their phlebotomy staffing practices “provided a discussion and examples of Nursing-directed phlebotomy. In CAP Today May 2018 issue, an article “ With Hemolysis, tackling the rush with the reasoning” ,

I find we are still dealing with all the same issues of specimen integrity as we did in 2001. From my own experience working with phlebotomy and nursing personnel in my institution, I know it requires continual education and reinforcement of skills. Since the lab knows rejecting all short draws or tubes with crooked labels will cause a delay for the patient, MLS/MLT staff try to do the manual manipulation required to provide a result. However to fix these problems, the issues need to be addressed with the ER manager who can present it at their daily huddle.

Emphasizing how important and more efficient it is that all of the labels have their own collection tube has been another issue we have tried to work on.

Since it became obvious in our hospital lab, that Nursing would be doing more of the blood collections, we met with the manager of our Emergency department and the Nurse Educator and put in place a lab orientation for all new ER staff. They have to come to the lab for a half day as part of their orientation. A Senior Lab assistant gives them a tour of the lab. She points out how the robotic line works and at this time points out the importance of the amount of sample as well as the placement of the label and order of draw. They review proper blood culture collection and of most importance the correct identification of the patient. We try to create a friendly environment and encourage them to ask any questions they have during this time in the lab or when they get on the job. We provide them the opportunity to see a phlebotomist

perform a blood collection and they are able to practice if they so desire.

We have been doing this for three years. Besides the orientation we need to continually reinforce proper phlebotomy techniques. We did institute the one patient per bag policy which was a suggestion of the ER management team. This one policy has prevented many possible patient identification errors since one label from another patient would be among all the other tubes with labels from another patient. This policy has resulted in an improvement in identification errors. The ER staff no longer argues with the lab staff regarding this issue since their managers are the sole reason for this policy.

How can the MLS/MLT staff member help with this process? Be patient and offer a simple explanation of why the specimen was rejected. We still get a few accusations of using the lab hemolyzer but with our new education program and the support of the ER management team, we have not heard that for several months.

Patient satisfaction scores are very important to an institution. When the lab is able to help Nursing get

the quality specimen on the first stick, the patient is much happier and this is reflected in the survey scores.

Other ways to improve communication between other care givers is by asking what ideas they have to help them obtain quality specimens. Develop a trust between the different work units. If everyone remembers that the welfare of the patient is the major focus, we can work together to accomplish that goal.

We need highly skilled MLS/MLT staff with good communication skills and the ability to work as a team member with other health care professionals. Look for ways to educate the Nursing staff even if your lab does not have a formal program in place. Articles in the institution's employee newsletter regarding blood collection as well as posters to be displayed in the Nursing staff break rooms are a few other ideas that we have tried. Collaboration between all members of the health care team will be needed to meet the ever changing technology which will include Point of Care testing and the best way to provide diagnostic testing with the present funding of health care.



## **Passing of a Long Time Colleague Martha S. Roulund March 3rd, 1927 - June 18th, 2019**



Martha Roulund, 92, passed away June 18. She was the ASCLS-MI Executive Secretary for many years, retiring in 2002. Martha's dedication to the society and especially to our student members was legendary. Kathy Doig reports she was able to attend Martha Roulund's memorial in Bay City, MI and express condolences on behalf of Alpha Mu Tau and ASCLS. As you can see from her obituary (click link below), Martha is survived by a large family of nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren; but also by the many students and other professionals whose lives she influenced.

<http://www.obitmichigan.com/Obituary/44533/Martha%20S.-Roulund>

Martha was always an ardent advocate for students. Long before Martha's passing, ASCLS-MI honored Martha with the formation of the Martha Roulund Award which provides ASCLS membership to a student upon graduation. Please see information on the award and [this](#) year's recipient on page 6.

You can leave a memory note for the family on the obituary website or send condolences to:

Jeff and Shannon Simon  
2015 Hatch Road  
Bay City, MI 48708.

## 2019 Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony - Part 2

*Editors note: Many thanks to awards chair **Alicia Kuzia** for all of her work in making this year's awards ceremony a great success. I am also grateful to **Ric Benson** for photography. Look for additional awards, including Member of the Year in the previous edition of Newslinks.*



### OMICRON SIGMA AWARDS

The Omicron Sigma award is given at the state, regional and national level. It recognizes individuals who volunteer their personal resources, time and energy in to the Society.

#### Omicron Sigma- State Level

(L-R) Lindsay Hengesbach, Suzanne Butch, Carey Loveland, Kathy Doig, Stephanie Mabry and Kristina Martin (not pictured)



#### Omicron Sigma- Region IV

(L-R) Suzanne Butch, Daniel deRegnier, Linda Goossen, Kathy Doig, Lynne Williams, Romy Selzer, Barbara Mannor, Stephanie Mabry, Andrea Hickey, Carey Loveland, Jerry Singleterry, and Kathy Hoag.

Not pictured: Darby Naheedy, John Gerlach, Jonathan Gusilatar, Ninive Costa, Kristin Landis-Piwowar, Rachel Morris,



#### Omicron Sigma- National Level

Our very own Roslyn McQueen, ASCLS President (Center) presents the award (L-R) to Lindsay Hengesbach, Stephanie Mabry, Carey Loveland and Suzanne Butch





## MARTHA ROULUND MEMBERSHIP AWARD

The Martha Roulund Award is named after a long time member and educator, who was executive secretary of ASCLS-MI for many years. Martha was a strong supporter of students. Martha served ASCLS for over 50 years. This award gives first-year professional membership in ASCLS-MI to a student who shows great potential to contribute to the profession and our professional society. This year's award winner is **Abbey Hilden**.

Her nomination letter explains: Abbey is currently a student at Ferris State University and is interning at Michigan Medicine. Abbey is an excellent role model and is always willing to go above and beyond to succeed. Her key strength is her leadership potential. Abbey is vice president of the FSU Association of Clinical Laboratory Science. She organized the trip to the 2018 ASCLS-MI meeting for her class. Abbey is a second generation MLS. Abbey will also be presenting her management project on the guidelines of antibiotic use at the ASCLS National Meeting!

## JOSEPH A. MILLER MEMORIAL AWARD

Joseph A. Miller was not an ASCLS member, but a tremendous supporter. He was a vendor a member of the Biomedical Exhibitors Association of Michigan (BEAM). He was killed in an auto accident after leaving the conference one year. It was his colleagues that established the award in his memory.

Congratulations to the 2018 Joseph A. Miller Memorial Award winner Autumn Ezyk. Autumn is an honor student at Oakland University. She is a participant in the Neurology Club, which provides insight into the neurosciences. She has been a student member of ASCLS for two years and is excited to begin her career journey.

Photo not available

## STUDENT FORUM SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded to juniors or seniors in the MLS or MLT programs who are ASCLS-MI members in good standing. This year's winners are listed below. Photos are not available.

First Place: Shakeela Khanam

Second Place: Autumn Ezyk

Third Place: Hannah von Steeg



## MOCK CERTIFICATION EXAM

One of the highlights of the Awards Ceremony is the announcing of the winners of the Mock Certification Exam Competition. Students take this 100 question comprehensive exam in a proctored setting, first individually and later as a team. Many thanks for Mariane Wolfe and any other volunteers who made this event happen. Congratulations to all the participants and programs!

### Individual Winners

First Place: Philip Ventura Eastern Michigan University, pictured at right.

Second Place: Aurora Loesel Saginaw Valley State University and Edward Han Detroit Medical Center

Third Place: Brianna Jaczynski Ascension School of Medical Laboratory Science  
Edward Han Detroit Medical Center



### Team Winners

First Place: Michelle Veldt, Elisabeth Fellows, Regina Rolando, Danny Do, Nick Farrugia  
Grand Valley State University Team 3, pictured below.

Second Place (tie) : Emily Gensch, Allison Malbouef, Philip Ventura  
Eastern Michigan University Team EMU C  
Ali Hay, Sonyia Miller, Kimberly Utterbeck, Youssra Nehmeh, Jillian Powell  
Wayne State University Team Gold

Third Place: Matthew Vogel, Allison Young, Rachel Siddall, Caleb Shearer, Kathleen Gray  
Ferris State University Team Woodbridge



## POSTER COMPETITION

This year's poster competition was both exciting and educational. A panel of expert judges chose the top three posters from the many excellent offerings. The winners and the topics of their posters are listed below. Many thanks to Kay Castillo for coordinating the event and judges for their time evaluating the presentations.

### Undergraduate Poster Winners

**First Place:** *The Cost of Manual QC Data Entry* Emily Gensch, Eastern Michigan University, pictured at right.

**Second Place:** *A Review of Specimen Rejection at Beaumont Farmington Hills*, Lauren Stuart Eastern Michigan University

**Third Place:** *Comparison of Analyzers for Measuring Glucose in Critically Ill Patients*, Kristina Cantrell Eastern Michigan University



### Graduate Poster Winners

**First Place:** *FilmArray Pneumonia Panel Comparison Study*, Mattie Brechbiel Grand Valley State University. Photo not available

**Second Place:** *Possible Interference of Cefepime on Vancomycin Levels*, Taylor Fagan Hurley Medical Center School of Medical Technology, pictured at left.

**Third Place:** *Do Low Hematocrit Levels Affect Hemoglobin A1c Levels*, Shannon Antushevich and Kaddie Haviland Hurley Medical Center School of Medical Technology



## John Landis Awarded for Lifetime Achievement

John Landis was selected for the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented at the annual meeting in East Lansing. Congratulations John! John Landis is a mentor, teacher, colleague and friend to many in the clinical laboratory science profession. His contributions range from serving as program director at Ferris State University, to consultant for major industry partners, to accreditation Site Visitor for NAACLS. John still continues this work today

John began his teaching career in 1971 as an Adjunct Instructor for the MLT Program at Oakland Community College after working in the laboratory in various positions since 1967. It was in 1973 that he made the move to Big Rapids to teach at what was then Ferris State College.

His tenure at FSU may be what John will be most remembered for. It was there that he recruited many students to the CLS Program following his presentations to the Chem 121 classes. It is safe to say that there are many of us that wouldn't be in this profession without a little nudge from John. He even convinced his daughter, Kristin Landis-Piwowar, to pursue a career in clinical laboratory science.

Though he officially retired from FSU in 2002, he has never stopped teaching and consulting. Since his retirement, John has worked in some capacity at 6 other colleges or universities, as well as consulted for the American Proficiency Institute and the Hematology Division of Siemens (Bayer Diagnostics). This includes a short stint as Acting Program Director for both the MLT Program at Kellogg Community College from 2013-2015 and for Arkansas State University from 2009-2010. As shown through those brief appointments, John has always been willing to go above and beyond to help a program or person in need-especially if your need is in Hematology!

John began his service to ASCLS-Michigan in 1975 when he was appointed the Membership Chairman. Over the years, he has served as Secretary, Hematology SA Chair, Education SA Chair, District Representative, Nominations Committee Chair, and finally President-Elect,

President, and Past President beginning in 2003.

His service to NAACLS has been just as significant as his service to ASCLS-Michigan. This service includes, several years as a Self-Study Paper Reviewer (1990-Present) and Site Visitor (1982-Present). In 2007 he participated in the first international site visit for Qatar University. John has served on the NAACLS Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program Review Committee (CLSPRC) for two 4-year terms, of which he was Vice Chair for two years and Chair for two years.

In addition to all of this, John is a well-respected speaker on a variety of topics related to hematology, urinalysis and coagulation. This includes an annual 40-hour Morphologic Hematology seminar he presented for Abbott Laboratories for 14 years.

John has been teaching people in and out of the classroom for 48 years. Besides golf, retiring may actually be the one thing that John has failed miserably at. Of course, he swears he is retiring in 2020.



*Andrea Hickey presents award to John Landis*

American Society for  
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