

President's Message

John Ko



Greetings ASCLS-Michigan members.

I hope you have all been enjoying the Michigan Fall season and the changing colors. The recent events of late have brought many uncertainties. But you can be guaranteed of this: ASCLS continues to be there for you.

Last month, the ASCLS-Michigan Board of Directors met virtually for the first meeting of the year. We continue our focus on building a strong organization and have plans in place to ensure Michigan representation at the upcoming Legislative Symposium.

Labucate: A core value of ASCLS is enabling laboratory professionals to function at their highest level. In addition to the annual meetings, did you know that ASCLS members have access to monthly webinars? These webinars offer you the flexibility to listen and learn at your convenience. Some of the past webinars included leadership development,

convalescent plasma, and workplace resiliency. I encourage you to participate in these sessions to continuing your learning and building your network. The next session will be presented by Dr. Linda Smith and our very own Dr. Kathy Doig on November 18th. You can register here: <https://www.ascls.org/education-meetings/webcasts-webinars/webinars>.

Labvocate: In the latest edition of ASCLS Today, the ASCLS Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) outlined some tips to navigating the election – reminding us to do our research and know the candidates. Elections are an important time for us to let our voices be heard and advocate for our profession, so don't forget to submit your ballot and vote.

Lastly, I know that many of you continue to persevere through COVID-19 courageously. Whether you are a student adjusting to online learning, an educator mentoring future professionals virtually, or on the bench staying committed to safe patient care, keep resilient, stay focused, enjoy some cider and donuts,



Sunset at the Arcadia Dunes CS Mott Preserve

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2021 ASCLS-Michigan Poster Contest

Lindsey Haveman, Awards Team Coordinator

The 2021 ASCLS-MI Poster Contest will take place at the Annual Conference in Southfield, MI on March 29-31, 2021.

Anyone interested in participating in the contest can find more information here:

<https://www.ascls-michigan.org/clinical-poster>

Any questions can be directed to the Poster Chair, Christina Lim, at lim@oakland.edu

Lifetime Achievement Award

Lindsey Haveman, Awards Team Coordinator

Can you think of someone deserving of the great honor of receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award? Maybe they had been nominated in the past, but you still think their dedication should be recognized this year? This specific award is for someone who has shown evidence of advancing, promoting, and improving the profession or society over the last 20 year span. Not only will this person receive covered registration at the spring meeting, but they will be recognized and receive a plaque at the Lifetime Achievement Award luncheon. They and two guests of their choosing will be treated to this luncheon. Reminder, they do not need to currently be active within the profession; the 20 year span could be from the past. Maybe you read through this description and thought of someone fitting who deserves the recognition for the dedication and hard work they've poured into our profession over decades. If you believe you have a deserving individual, please send your nomination form to the State Awards Chair, Alicia Kuzia, at aliciakuzia@gmail.com

Follow this link for the nomination form: <https://www.ascls-michigan.org/lifetime-achievement>

All nominations must be submitted by December 31st so voting can occur during the winter Board of Director's meeting



**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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Advertising: Reach hundreds of Clinical Laboratory Scientists and students!
Advertising rates per issue:

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1/4 Page Ad:	\$50
1/2 Page Ad:	\$100
Full Page Ad:	\$200

ASCLS-MI Districts & Committees: no fee for announcements, ads or any other relevant and necessary forms of information. 10% discount for ASCLS members.

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.

At the Intersection of Public Health and Laboratory Science: A Road in Need of Repair

Katherine A. Miller MPH, MLS (ASCP)CM, Scientific Assembly, Microbiology/Public Health

As we approach the end of an equally bizarre and burdensome year, I feel the topic of this *Newslinks* article arrives at an appropriate time— a sentiment I hope you will share by the end. Moreover, if you are reading this, I can likely rely on the assumption that you have driven on a road in Michigan, thus, the analogy is familiar albeit not comforting.

Since 1990, Michigan has never graced the top 50% in per capita public health spending, rather we have consistently ranked in the bottom 20%.¹ In 2019, the state spent \$25.6 billion on health and human services—70.7% of those funds were provided through federal operating grants, whereas the rest was covered by state revenue (e.g. taxes).² A 2018 report conducted by the Citizens Research Council of Michigan went as far as deeming Michigan “terribly unhealthy.”³

And, nearly one-third of local health departments service multiple, large counties—some in rural areas further encumbered by a chronic lack of access to nearby, well-equipped medical facilities.

These examples provide only a glimpse into Michigan's disjointed public health infrastructure.

Can a state continue to predominately rely on a fiscally conservative federal government—one whom consistently slashes national public health spending—for a substantial majority of their public health funds? This article serves as a call for deeper advocacy and unification between public health planning, response, and laboratories.

Public health thrives when provided the means to think outside-of-the-box, and—remaining within the bounds of CLIA—laboratories could withstand to be more flexible to help adapt to the sometimes-unavoidable creative solutions public health generates. On the other hand, the creativity of public health can open the door for misuse due to less rigorous regulations in place. From the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment to the Cutter Labs Polio incident, public health has left a warranted wake of mistrust among those we promised to serve. Having experienced firsthand the power of a local public health system under duress as well as the streamlined efficiency of a well-managed Level 1 Trauma Center clinical laboratory, we should hold hope for a future that

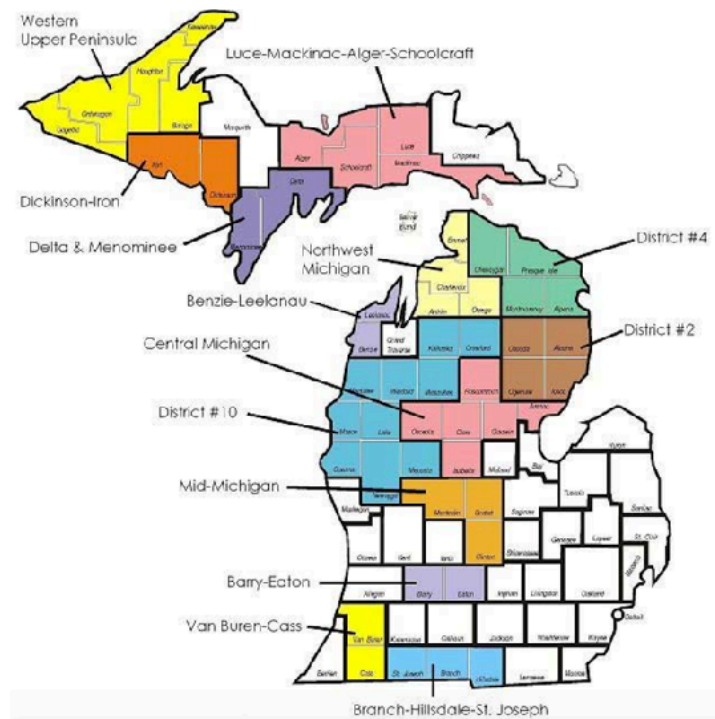


Figure 1: Local health department distribution and coverage in Michigan

invests in and values both. For now, however, the issue remains an unbalanced predicament of too many cooks in the kitchen and not enough resources—funding, personnel, facilities, equipment, reagents, or otherwise.

Various contaminated water sources, a staggering opioid epidemic, a global respiratory pandemic, and mounting mental health crises—perhaps the Great Lakes State is terribly unhealthy with such dire public health needs. Yet, we have a dedicated public health and clinical laboratory workforce who can rise up to meet these needs and beyond. Which begs the question—what are we missing? In no particular order, these are areas that come to mind as essential when thinking of the betterment of our field:

➔ **Funding**

- Addresses equipment, reagent, and personnel needs

➔ **Government advocacy**

- Increased field visibility and potential for funding security

➔ **Equipment, facility, and reagent procurement**

- Improved preparedness and response management and local health department coverage

➔ **Recruitment**

- Expanded capacity across the state for all public health needs

➔ **Scientific communication and community outreach**

- Build and maintain trust within and across communities

The 2018 Citizens Research Council of Michigan report called for a “health in all policies” approach which would implement assessing the health risks and benefits of new measures across all sectors—from infrastructure and education to criminal justice reform. It is clear our need now is greater and more visible than ever. For the first time in our lives, PCR assays and epidemiologic concepts are being discussed in-depth in the media. Our state’s health needs will only grow once the current pandemic subsides—the visibility must keep pace as well.

The ideas presented above are long-term goals which require movement at all levels across multiple sectors, so how can we as individuals begin to foster these concepts and incorporate them into the present for our future? Mentor a rising laboratorian—

whether they are a student or new hire on your bench, through mentorship you can leave a positive impact on someone just entering the profession. Write to your representative, congressperson, and Governor Gretchen Whitmer asking for a commitment to increase state public health spending—this can be as simple as writing an email or letter. Reach out to a local middle or high school science class to answer questions or provide a demonstration—in a world of Zoom-everything, this is easier now than ever before. Finally, take pride in knowing you provide a valuable service to the community—reach out to a colleague to say thanks or let a supervisor know they’re doing a great job to ensure their work is acknowledged and appreciated.

There is no reason why we should be unprepared in the face of threats against the safety and health of Michiganders. Political alignments aside, no governor should need to bid on care-altering assays and life-saving equipment for their constituents. No healthcare system should reach critically low levels of PPE or cleaning supplies. No frontline worker should receive a shipment of moldy N95 respirators. Healthcare professionals should not be fired and called whistleblowers for doing their job and reporting the empirical truth. If we treat this intersection like other roads in Michigan, it will take years to be repaired, if at all. We know what our respective fields are capable of—with a more reinvigorated and reinforced approach, we may have the road repaired in three years instead of six.

References

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3. Citizens Research Council of Michigan. (August 20, 2018). An Ounce of Prevention: What Public Health Means for Michigan. <https://crcmich.org/publications/an-ounce-of-prevention-what-public-health-means-for-michigan>. Accessed October 12, 2020.



ASCLS-Michigan History

Paul Guthrie, Publications Chair



In a year with no ASCLS-Michigan annual meeting, it is interesting to reflect on the beginnings of our organization's history of excellent annual meetings. Some 30 years after the 1918 influenza pandemic and 73 years before the current pandemic, MSMT, the precursor to ASCLS-Michigan, held its first annual meeting. Kathy Doig provided the description of their event(below) from the American Journal of Medical Technology 1947.13(4)208-9. The meeting was held in Grand Rapids at the Ferguson-Droste-Ferguson Hospital, a predecessor of the current Spectrum Hospital. The meeting included a week long refresher in bio-chemistry by Michigan State College (later to become MSU), with papers on a bacteriology topic and an update on serology testing.

MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

The Michigan Society of Medical Technologists held its first annual meeting at the Ferguson-Droste-Ferguson Hospital, Grand Rapids, on May 17, 1947. The scientific program was composed of the two following papers: "Bacteriological Examination for Salmonella and Shigella," by Dr. Grace Eldering, Michigan Department of Health Laboratories, Grand Rapids, and "What's New in Serology," by Dr. Elizabeth Yagle, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit. The Michigan State College is presenting a refresher course in bio-chemistry to members of the society during the week of July 7-12. The following officers were elected for the year 1947-48:

President—Miss Edna Luneke, 72 Sheldon Ave., Grand Rapids

Vice President—Miss Marjorie Kenyon, Kalamazoo

Treasurer—Miss Helen Psik, Jackson

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Esther Goodson, 148 Oakes St., S. E. Grand Rapids

Recording Secretary—Miss Gladys Jacobs, 212 Garfield St., Bay City

Executive Committee—Miss Katherine Trimble, Lansing; Miss Eleanor Duffy, Detroit

Advisory Board—Dr. Hazel Prentice, Kalamazoo; Dr. Lynn A. Ferguson, Grand Rapids; Dr. S. E. Gould, Eloise.

I noticed the advisory board included a name from Kalamazoo, Dr. Hazel Prentice. I began working at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo in 1983 and vaguely recall mention of a "Prentice Labs" by some of the "old-timers" who trained me. In a Google search, I was able to find a memorial article from the June 1962 American Journal of Clinical Pathology. Her accomplishments and the high regard with which she was held are impressive. Dr Prentice was the first pathologist in our community and established services at both Bronson and Borgess hospitals here. She was an esteemed pioneer in our field.

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IN MEMORIAM

HAZEL RUTH PRENTICE, M.D.

1898-1961

Dr. Prentice was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, the daughter of Frank H. and Clara E. Prentice, and received her early education in that region, graduating from Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1919. After earning the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Michigan, she subsequently established services in pathology at Bronson Methodist and Borgess Hospitals in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and became the first pathologist in that community and its environs. Subsequently, she established the Prentice Clinical Laboratory in the same city, was appointed consultant in pathology to many institutions in the surrounding area, and eventually came to be regarded as a pioneer in this field throughout the western part of Michigan.

In addition to a full schedule of professional duties, she became an able volunteer in the cause of organized medicine, serving on many committees, as secretary and as the first woman president of the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine. She was also

active in various associations of pathologists and was president of the Michigan Pathological Society in 1946. Civic and business interests also occupied a considerable part of her time.

The esteem in which she was held by her colleagues is probably best expressed in the resolution adopted by the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine after her passing on March 18, 1961: "Few physicians of this community or of southwestern Michigan have contributed more, or done so much, to elevate the standards of medicine, or to keep ethical and moral planes of our profession on a high level of respect, for all of us to enjoy today. With her loss this academy is experiencing the passing of an era of pioneering in a field so rapidly expanding that her very health and life were sacrificed."

C. ALLEN PAYNE, M.D.
Blodgett Hospital
Grand Rapids, Michigan

I searched for information on the independent laboratory she founded. The last record I could find was from a 1970 listing of Medicare providers.

Directory
Medicare
providers and suppliers
of services

Hospitals
Extended care facilities
Home health agencies
Outpatient physical therapy
Independent laboratories

JAN 6 1970
REPOSITORY DOCUMENT

Title XVIII
Health insurance for the aged

PAGE 2
MICHIGAN

DIRECTORY OF PROVIDERS - INDEPENDENT LABORATORIES
OCTOBER 1970

PROVIDER

ADDRESS

ZIP

BIOCLINICAL LABORATORY
PRENTICE CLINICAL LABORATORY

1711 MERRILL ST SUITE B
463 ACADEMY ST

49001
49006

The Medicare directory listed the address of the laboratory. I checked out the location and today the site is a parking lot (photo at right)



Only a few blocks away from this former laboratory site, major changes to the Kalamazoo laboratory world took place this year. In the midst of a pandemic, Bronson Methodist Hospital moved all laboratory operations to a new building (see photos below). The location is the former Kalamazoo Gazette headquarters, portions of which were built in 1925. Dr Hazel Prentice would be familiar with this Art Deco structure designed by the renowned architect Albert Kahn. Other sections of the building are brand new. Inside the laboratory, she would no doubt recognize some of our equipment; for instance microscopes. It is likely the automation and technologies which have developed since her passing would fascinate her. Computers, molecular testing and so much more are things one could probably not even imagine a century ago. The future of laboratory technology is likely to be as unimaginable to us. As the lyrics from "Digital Man" by the band Rush declare: "Constant change is here to stay."



Speaking of history,

ASCLS-MI is looking for a New Historian

Suzanne Butch



Are you interested in history and think that we need to learn from the past? Do you wonder about the origins of ASCLS-MI? If so, consider being the next ASCLS-MI Historian. Your current historian has plans to move out of state.

Along with the responsibilities of arranging for a historical exhibit or event that features ASCLS-MI history at our Annual Meeting is the management of records that have not been sent to the Bentley Historical Library. Currently there are 5 plastic bins of materials. These include flags, pins, proclamations and the like.

If interested, contact John Ko. jjk889@gmail.com

For questions, contact Suzanne Butch. suzanne.butch@gmail.com

Nominations for 2021 BOD!

Kristin Landis-Piwowar

Have you 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?

Consider running 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 include 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 below. You can also learn more on the ASCLS Michigan [Elected Positions Webpage](#).

- President Elect – 1 year term (3 year commitment)
- Secretary – 1 year term
- District Representative – 1 year term, 3 representatives per district (see [ASCLS Michigan Bylaws](#) Article VIII for listing of District boundaries by county)
- Ascending Professional New Member – 1 year term
- Nominations Committee – 2 year term, 2 open positions
- Government Affairs – 2 year term

If you would like to serve on the BOD, know someone you would like to nominate for a position, or have questions about a position, please contact one of the Nomination Committee members or submit a [Nomination Form](#) to a committee member.

Kristin Landis-Piwowar: landispi@oakland.edu

Stephanie Mabry: stephanie.mabry@outlook.com

Sharon Ziemba: sharon.cls05@yahoo.com

Lindsey Haveman: Lindsey.Foos@spectrumhealth.org

Nominations must be submitted to the Committee by [February 8, 2021](#)

American Society for
Clinical Laboratory Science



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

