



President's Message

Jerry
Singleterry

What does it mean to be a laboratorian? I believe each and every one of us should know the answer to this question and be able to convey it to the healthcare team. To me clinical laboratory science is a profession, a career choice that lasts a lifetime. As a laboratorian, my responsibilities are not just to a position where I punch in and punch out every day. I believe the responsibilities of a laboratorian extend outward to every sample I handle. Each sample represents a person and my practice decisions make a difference to the lives of many people. Laboratorians provide a unique body of knowledge to the healthcare team and that is why I say clinical laboratory science is a profession and we should take this responsibility very seriously.

At times working the bench can seem like just a job, and yes the laboratory can be grueling. In my eyes, we are the most important piece of the healthcare team. Yet we usually take a step back when it comes to getting noticed. Getting NOTICED is the key and I cannot stress how important it is for our profession to be noticed as a key member of the team. I encourage each of you to get involved and volunteer to be on different committees within your organizations. Give tours of the laboratory. Offer to explain to others what it is you do as a laboratorian. We need you to get NOTICED for your importance through activism too. For example, join and stay in an organization that represents clinical laboratory professional like ASCLS.

July 2018 I attended the National ASCLS Annual Meeting in Chicago. I had the opportunity to talk with laboratory professionals across the Nation who are dealing with the issues plaguing our profession: staff shortages, laboratory schools closures and how internships slots are dwindling down. As one voice, through the ASCLS, our issues and concerns were presented to Congress by the legislative symposium (<http://ascls.org/education-meetings/legislative-symposium>), designed by our organization to give information

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to different state congressional members. If we stand together we are definitely a stronger voice.

We have a strong state society that works diligently to get laboratorians NOTICED in Michigan. The ASCLS-MI board is pleased to present the 2018-2019 strategic plan.

- Visibility of the Profession-Focus on Youth: Develop traveling workshop with the intent to educate Junior high, and high school students about the Clinical Laboratory Profession.
- Visibility of the Profession: Participate in a Science/Career Fair in Each District
- Visibility of the Profession-Student Engagement: Develop a badge for the ASCLS-MI Conference for ambassadors that speak to college campus clubs, groups, and classes.
- Visibility of the Profession-Ambassador badge through advertising on social media platform: Advertise Student Ambassador Badge on social media and through Michigan Association of Laboratory Science Educators (MALSE)
- Visibility of the Profession- Focus on Youth: Advertise Student Ambassador Badge on social media and through Michigan Association of Laboratory Science Educators (MALSE)
- Membership: Applying the Recruitment material received from Andre Hickey
- Membership: Research what ASCLS has available for Membership recruitment – Multimedia Platform
- Membership: Access the Video Testimonial from national and post on Michigan ASCLS social media/website.
- Membership: Member benefit revisions

In addition, to improve leadership succession, we plan to conduct leadership training sessions at our regularly scheduled board meetings. I look forward to serving you as the President of ASCLS-MI. The ASCLS-MI is committed to helping each laboratorian reach their potential. One Voice, One Vision



**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

Non-Member Subscriptions

(\$10 annually) should be made payable to ASCLS-Michigan and sent to:
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5363 Drumheller Road
Bath, MI 48808

Advertising: Reach hundreds of Clinical Laboratory Scientists and students!

Advertising rates per issue:

Business Card (or 5 lines):	\$25
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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National Meeting Does Not Disappoint

Lindsay Hengesbach, M.S., MB(ASCP)^{CM}

Past President

The ASCLS Annual Meeting Steering Committee always does a great job striking a balance between the educational component, social events, and governance. This year was no exception. Meeting attendees were given access to top notch speakers, had plenty of opportunity to network and engage in social activities and there was still plenty of time to conduct the business of the society.

This year's program was outstanding. With topics ranging from Patient Safety, Diversity, Next Gen Sequencing, STD updates, Engaging Nursing, One-Haplotype Match Transplants, and numerous others, the information presented was both timely and relevant to what is happening in the laboratory today. If you were unable to attend, I highly recommend looking over the session handouts on-line. In addition, many of the presentations were recorded. I was proud to

see many of Michigan's members on the program including **Dr. Lynne Williams** who spoke about new discoveries in innate immunity; **Dr. John Gerlach** who spoke about new developments in transplant medicine and **Kristina Martin** who hosted a panel discussion on cost savings in the laboratory. I found that this meeting was a great opportunity to step outside my comfort zone and sit in on topics that were new to me—like what patients do to alter the results of a drug test.

There were plenty of opportunities to reconnect with colleagues, make new connections and give back to the community at the meeting. The President's Reception and Labapalooza were full of fun, with lots of smiles, excellent desserts and even some dancing! For our sports lovers, there was also an opportunity to watch the White Socks take on the Royals. And of course there was Chicago itself. With the Magnificent Mile

only blocks away, there was easy access to shopping, delicious food and plenty of entertainment. Your ASCLS-Michigan Delegation even found time to grab a slice of authentic deep dish Chicago pizza. In addition to fun, **Michelle Moy** and the Promotion of the Profession committee made sure that ASCLS's charitable side was highlighted. This year school supplies and donations were collected and given to local schools.

ASCLS-Michigan was well represented at the ASCLS awards ceremony. In addition to receiving 2nd in the best publication category, our very own **Linda Goossen** was nominated for the Lifetime Achievement award. **Stephanie Rink** was recognized as one of ASCLS's 40-under-40.



When it comes to the business of the society, Michigan was well represented. This year, **Dr. Roslyn McQueen** has taken over as president of ASCLS. She has many Michiganders supporting her during her presidential year. The board meetings, committee meetings and scientific assemblies were full of useful information. I'm happy to report that the financial health of our organization is good. However, membership numbers are dropping as more members retire and millennials do not join to take their place. Membership will be a key area of focus at the national and state level for the next few years. There was also a productive discussion on how to better utilize the expertise of the scientific assemblies. For those of you that are interested, the agenda and meeting minutes can be found on the ASCLS website.



As far as the 2019 Annual Meeting goes, some big changes are coming our way. This was the last year that the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) partnered with the American Association of Clinical Chemists for our meeting. I know that some are worried about losing access to the Lab Expo, but I've been assured by the annual meeting steering committee that we will still have access to top notch vendors at our next meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina on June 23-27. In fact, I predict that the vendors will be even better because we can invite vendors that are relevant to our profession. In terms of programming, you will be able to expect the same high caliber speakers. And of course, there will still be time to have a little fun!



ANNUAL
MEETING
JULY 29-AUGUST 2, 2018
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS





MSU BLD Science Festival

Michelle Russell



This past April, the [Biomedical Diagnostics Program](#) at Michigan State University hosted a Medical Laboratory Science Expo at the [MSU Science Festival](#). The goal of our Expo was to increase awareness and interest of our profession. Our theme was [Solve the Mystery Illness!](#) We used it to show the public why medical laboratory science is a fun and a necessary part of healthcare. We were thrilled to have attendees of all ages participate in various hands-on activities, including looking at red blood cells under a microscope, pipetting colored liquids, running a simulated urinalysis, exposure to “agar” plates, and doing a hand-washing activity. During these activities, our volunteers explained why each activity is important in the clinical laboratory.

We also hosted a professional and education table, manned with volunteers to explain education routes

and careers in our profession. Our group provided handouts and fun giveaways like science themed pin-on buttons and temporary tattoos. Our takeaway was that medical laboratory science is interesting for all ages!

This project was supported by over 20 awesome volunteers of BLD faculty, staff, students, and alumni, as well as members from ASCLS-Michigan. It took place in MSU's Biomedical Physical Sciences Building, with other expos in the sciences, technology, and arts. A NASA astronaut was a special guest and we even managed get through the middle of the day with a fire alarm! But don't worry, everyone was safe! After the all clear to come back into the building, we regrouped and had a last rush of visitors as the Expo was about to close. It was a fantastic experience for all involved!



ASCLS Michigan Celebration of the Profession

Alicia Kuzia, Awards Chair and Nicole Eadeh, Awards Committee

With our state and national meetings completed, it's time to start thinking about nominations for awards and scholarships for 2019! Formally known as the awards ceremony, we will be turning this display of hard-working individuals into a celebration.

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? Is this professional a vital role and example or what being a medical laboratory scientist is? 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. Exact award and scholarship information can be found at <http://www.ascls-michigan.org/awards>.

Introducing the ASCLS-Michigan Grassroots Advocacy Network Member Community!

Stephanie K. Rink MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SC^{CM}

ASCLS-Michigan President-Elect



Are you interested in receiving more frequent targeted communication about government affairs activities in Michigan, upcoming advocacy opportunities and other GAC-related information? Are you interested in actively participating with upcoming GAC efforts? Do you consider yourself an advocate for the laboratory profession?

Then the new ASCLS-Michigan Grassroots Advocacy Network member community through the ASCLS website is for you! If you are not familiar with the member communities, they are a great way to have discussions relating to certain topics, in this instance government affairs and advocacy for laboratorians in Michigan.

There is also a resource library which includes information on Michigan government and the ASCLS-Michigan GAC, with more information on additional topics to be added soon! To check it out, and join the group, go to connect.ascls.org, sign into your membership account, and select the "Member Community" tab in the upper right. From there, select "Communities" in the upper left, then "All Communities" from the dropdown. Scroll through the alphabetical listing for ASCLS-MI Grassroots Advocacy Network, and join today! Furthermore, individuals who actively participate in ASCLS-Michigan advocacy (attending Lab Week Advocacy Day or Legislative Symposium, contacting a legislator about an issue, meeting a legislator at a coffee hour, etc.) are recognized each year with a Grassroots Advocate badge ribbon at the state meeting. Make sure to let us know what advocacy you have done so we can recognize you as well!



HISTORY

Joining ASCLS circa 1934 – not as easy as today!



Kathy Doig

Today, you can join ASCLS by just going to the website, completing the form, and paying your dues. It wasn't so easy when the Society was founded. Joining the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Technicians (as it was first known) in 1934 was like joining an exclusive club. Paying your dues was not sufficient. First, you had to be certified by the Board of Registry (BOR) of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

Article 3—MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. The membership of this Society shall consist of:

(a) Active; (b) Honorary; (c) Corresponding.

Section 2. Active members are those who have successfully met the requirements established by The Board of Registry of The American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

Then you were assessed by the Advisory Board for contributions to the profession and moral character. The Advisory Board included pathologists representing the BOR, though they did not vote.

Section 6. The Advisory Board shall be composed of three active members of the Society who shall hold office for three years (or until their successors are elected) one of which is elected annually; and three representatives of The Board of Registry of The A. S. C. P., to serve in an honorary capacity.

Section 6. The Advisory Board shall investigate all applications for membership and submit their recommendations at the annual meeting of the Society. They shall receive and present a report at the executive session with their recommendations.

If the Advisory Board recommended you for admission to ASCLT, there was still one more step. You had to be elected by the members attending the annual meeting.

Section 2. Applicants for active and corresponding membership approved by the Advisory Board shall be elected by a ballot of three-fourths of the members voting at any annual meeting, except during the years 1934, 1935 and 1936 when the members shall be elected by the discretion of the Advisory Board or their proxy.

This was a fairly complicated procedure, especially if you remember that most of it was done through the postal mail and without benefit of even copy machines! So since it is so easy, be sure to renew your membership if you haven't done so already.

American Society for
Clinical Laboratory Science
MICHIGAN



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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
ASCLS-MICHIGAN
ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBITS
APRIL 10-12, 2019
KELLOGG HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER,
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY,
EAST LANSING
IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD!
