

Fall 2025

Bench Notes



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear ASCLS-NYers,

My name is Rhiannon, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve you all as your President for these next two years. I am incredibly grateful for the chance to give back to our lab community, and to help advocate for our profession and for all of you. I thank you all for your support of ASCLS, whether you are new or have been around!

As we prepare to step into a new year, I hope the season ahead brings us all joy and fulfillment in the role we play in the care of others. Whether your time is spent in the lab, or in the classroom cultivating the next generation of lab rats, your efforts make an impact.

In case no one has said it to you lately, thank you for everything you do.

Sincerely,

Rhiannon Tierney
President, ASCLS-NY

P.S. Here are some things about me!

- 1.) I am a Lead generalist at a Level III trauma center, but Hematology has my heart.
- 2.) My hobbies include travel, reading, baking, and working overtime to pay for said travel.
- 3.) My favorite sport is Formula One. If you have no idea what that is, it's actually a great sport for scientists and data lovers! Just take my word for it and try it out.
- 4.) I am a graduate of Stony Brook University's Clinical Laboratory Sciences program. Go Seawolves!



Bench Notes is the official publication of the New York Constituent Society of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. It is published four times yearly.

Editor:
Carol Golyski

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- Web site:
www.connect.ascls.org/newyork
- Facebook: American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science—New York
- Instagram: [ascls.ny](https://www.instagram.com/ascls.ny)



ASCLS– NY Mission/Vision Statement

ASCLS-NY serves as the voice of all clinical laboratory professionals, creating a vision for the advancement of the clinical laboratory practice field, and advocating the value and the role of the profession ensuring safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient centered health care.

ASCLS-NY is an inclusive, culturally relevant community of people acknowledging their differences and unique characteristics; it is an organization where all persons can engage and participate in a meaningful way empowering everyone to grow and learn.

ASCLS-NY is the state constituent society of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. ASCLS is divided into ten geographic regions and ASCLS-NY is a member of Region I along with the constituent societies of Maine, Connecticut and Central New England.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FALL BOARD MEETING

The Fall Board Meeting of ASCLS-NY was held via Zoom videoconferencing on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 9:30 AM. The primary purpose of this meeting is to plan activities for the upcoming year.

President Rhiannon Tierney presided at the meeting. After calling the meeting to order, meeting minutes from the Spring Board Meeting were approved. This was followed by officer and board member reports.

Discussions included:

- Contacting lapsed members to encourage renewal
- Location and date of the 2026 Spring Seminar
- Promotional products
- Vendors for Spring Seminar
- Vacant Board positions: Developing Professional, Ascending Professional,



2026 ASCLS-NY SPRING SEMINAR AND BUSINESS MEETING

Friday June 6, 2026

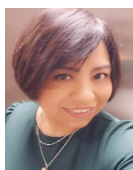
St. John's University

ASCLS-NY OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2025-2026



President:

Medical Laboratory Scientist
Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwell Newburgh, NY



President-Elect/Membership: Lourdes Martinez



Past-President/Judicial: Tracey Graney

CLT Program Director & Professor, Biology
Monroe Community College, Rochester, NY



Secretary/Handbook: Lisa Hochstein

Adjunct Professor
St. John's University, Queens, NY



Treasurer/ Charity: Gwenn Schwerdel

Medical Laboratory Scientist (ASCP)^{cm}
Southold, NY



One Year Board Member: Anika Rattu

Laboratory Technologist
Jefferson Health, Cherry Hill, NJ



ASCLS-NY OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2025-2026 (cont'd.)



Two Year Board Member/Awards: Michelle Parent

Program Director

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences



Two Year Board Member/Scholarship Chair: Yon Choi-Gomes

Assistant Professor/Clinical Coordinator

St. John's University, Queens, NY



Nominations: Kathleen Finnegan

Clinical Associate Professor

Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY



Ascending Professional: Vacant



Developing Professional: Vacant



Newsletter Editor: Carol Golyski

Professor Emerita, University at Buffalo



CHARITY

ASCLS-NY Helps Fight Pancreatic Cancer

Submitted by Gwenn Schwerdel, ASCLS-NY Charity Chair

Since spring 2024, ASCLS-NY has supported the Lustgarten Foundation for pancreatic cancer research (the “Foundation”). As a constituent society, we have joined together to fight a disease that the American Cancer Society estimates more than 67,000 cases in 2025 in the U.S. alone. (<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/pancreatic-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>).

Who Is The Lustgarten Foundation?

The Lustgarten Foundation was formed in 1998 shortly after founder, Marc Lustgarten, Cablevision Vice Chairman, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Lack of research at the time served as the driving force behind Mr. Lustgarten’s desire to establish the Foundation before his death in 1999. Today, the Lustgarten Foundation has invested \$301 million in 366 research projects significantly impacting the 5-year relative survival rate increase to 13%. The Foundation has awarded 10 new grants in 2025 to researchers at 8 leading institutions in continuation of its dedication to addressing the critical need for progress in pancreatic cancer research. The Foundation’s commitment to advancing lifesaving science toward its mission of transforming pancreatic cancer into a curable disease aligns with ASCLS-NY’s commitment to patient centered healthcare and community wellness.

How Much Money Has ASCLS-NY Raised For The Foundation?

Our members have participated in charity walks throughout the State of New York, recruiting friends, students, coworkers, and family, raising \$1,295 to date. Great job!

How Can I Help?

You can join Team ASCLS-NY in 2026 for a charity walk near you, or make a donation with Team ASCLS-NY on the Lustgarten Foundation’s website once the walk is announced (either way, you receive a complimentary tee shirt). Stay tuned for announcements via the ASCLS Community Board and emails from your constituent society regarding upcoming charity walks beginning spring 2026.

For more information about how your donations have impacted pancreatic cancer research through the Lustgarten Foundation, see their timeline of accomplishments here: <https://lustgarten.org/leadership/your-impact/a-timeline-of-pancreatic-cancer-research-milestones/>



STUDENT CORNER



Students:

Take advantage of the ASCLS-NY Scholarship Program! Scholarships are available to undergraduate and graduate student members.

SCHOLARSHIPS



ASCLS-NY Scholarships: Blast off Like a Rocket, With Money in the Pocket!

Yon Choi-Gomes
Scholarship Chair

Each year, ASCLS-NY offers three outstanding scholarship opportunities—two for ASCLS-NY Developing Professional undergraduate students (one MLS and one MLT) and one for a member who has been accepted into a graduate program to advance their education and career.

For undergraduate scholarships, the key is to become an ASCLS Developing Professional Member, for students entering their final year by **December 31, 2025**. Eligible undergraduate members will receive scholarship information and the application form via email by the end of February. Applications are due **April 19, 2026**.

Graduate scholarship details will be emailed by the end of March, with applications due **May 17, 2026**. Scholarship information is also available at any time on our website.

An impartial panel of ASCLS-NY members will review the applications and select the recipients. Awardees will be announced at the Spring Seminar in June.

Becoming an ASCLS member not only gives you access to valuable opportunities such as these scholarships—it also allows you to become an active, engaged part of our professional community.



CLINICAL CORNER



SUMMER QUESTION

MYCOLOGY

Submitted by Carol Golyski

QUESTION:

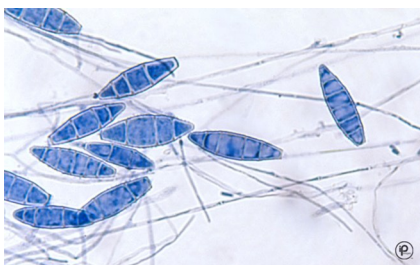
Dermatomycosis, a contagious fungal infection, typically infects

- 1.skin
- 2.hair
- 3.nails
- 4.all of the above

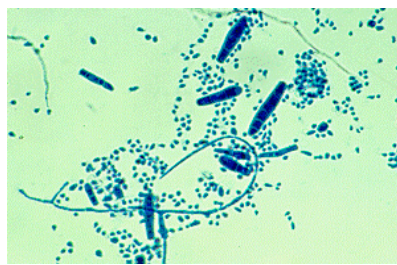
ANSWER:

4. all of the above

Dermatomycosis is more frequently called tinea or ringworm and is a contagious fungal infection affecting hair, skin and nails. The patches produced on the skin have raised edges that was thought to contain a small circular worm, thus the name ringworm. The causative agents are referred to as the dermatophytes and consist of the genera *Microsporum*, *Epidermophyton* and *Trichophyton*. These fungi can be differentiated by the appearance of the macroconidia that each genus produces. Microscopic identification is enhanced with dyes such as lactophenol cotton blue.



Microsporum—"spindle shaped" macroconidia



Trichophyton—"pencil shaped" macroconidia



Epidermophyton—"beaver tail" macroconidia



CLINICAL CORNER



FALL QUESTION

CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

Submitted by Yon Choi-Gomes

QUESTION:

What is the gold standard test for a Myocardial Infarction?

- a. CKMB
- b. Myoglobin
- c. Troponin I
- d. Creatine Kinase

Answer will appear in the Winter edition.



A BLAST FROM THE PAST



Fall Board Meeting

Saturday, October 21, 2017 St. John's University, Queens, NY

Before videoconferencing was available, the Fall Board Meetings were held in person.

Seated, left to right: Gwenn Schwerdel, Carol Golyski, Matthew Schoell

Standing, left to right: Melinda Liu, Steve Strigaro, Ryan Barry, Lisa Hochstein, Steve Latuso, Helene DiPalma, Angela Meisse



EDITOR'S CORNER

Dear ASCLS-NY Members,

Do you have any news to share with our members? Promotion? An award? Retirement? Engagement? Wedding? New baby? Perhaps you would like to remember a member who has passed away. Your articles and pictures will be published in *Bench Notes*.

Do you have an interesting case study? Do you have a good question for the **Clinical Corner**? *Bench Notes* would love to include them in upcoming editions!

Are you from an educational institution that has started a new clinical program? Have your students received any scholarships? Have your students undertaken any projects that are newsworthy? Again, *Bench Notes* would be glad to share that news with our members.

Email your articles and pictures to Carol at:
Editor.ASCLSNY@gmail.com

I await hearing from you!

Yours in ACLSNY,
Carol Golyski,
Editor



MEMBERS IN ACTION

Our Treasurer, **Gwenn Schwerdel**, participated in the “Future of CLS” alumni panel at Stony Brook University in October. She mentored CLS juniors, lending advice, and advocating for the profession.

Jim Payne and **Vicki Roberts** co-presented a talk entitled “Education of High School Students to Medical Laboratory Science” at the New York State Clinical Laboratory Association. The meeting was held September 9-10 in Albany, NY.

At the same meeting, **Angela Tomei Robinson** co-presented with Dr. Rhode Rhode of the Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science entitled “Quality Log-term Solutions to Laboratory Workforce Shortages”

Angela Tomei Robinson co-presented at ASCLS’s virtual Emerging Laboratory Managers Collaborative Conference (ELMC²) in November. She and Dr. Rodney Rhode’s virtual presentation was entitled “Workforce in the Shadow of Healthcare: Update on the Survival Status of Laboratory Medicine and Public Health” They also published the information in the *Biomedical Journal of Scientific Research* in October.

Angela Tomei-Robinson was recently featured on two pod casts:

- “From Microscope to Classroom” moderated by Irina Ashman of Lab Talks Podcasts.
- “Behind the Scenes in Hospitals: Why Lab Workers Are Heroes” moderated by Dr. Tudor Francu of Stellar Success Podcasts.



UPCOMING ASCLS EVENTS

- January 18, 2026: Mid-Year House of Delegates (virtual)
- February 5-7, 2026: **Clinical Laboratory Educators’ Conference**
Bellevue, Washington
- April 19-25, 2026: **Medical Laboratory Professionals Week**
- June 6, 2026: **ASCLS-NY Spring Seminar**
St. John’s University, Queens, NY
- June 28-July 2, 2026: **Joint Annual Meeting**
St. Louis, Missouri

