



**Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science  
2026 ANNUAL MEETING - April 8-10, 2026**

*"Rounding Up Innovation: Corraling the Future of Medical Laboratory Science"*

**Embassy Suites Landmark**  
5615 Landmark Parkway  
San Antonio, TX 78249



**Preliminary Program**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026**

**1:00 pm – 6:00 pm**  
*Location: Bluebonnet Foyer*

Registration  
Vendor Setup

**1:00 pm – 8:00 pm**  
*Location: Bluebonnet A*

***Student Bowl Competition***

**Thursday, April 9, 2026**

**7:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
*Location: Bluebonnet BC*

Registration

*Location: Bluebonnet A*

**9:00 am – 10:00 am**  
*Location: Bluebonnet BC*

Exhibits

Opening of Exhibits and Breakfast for Hotel Guests in Lobby/Restaurant  
**Poster Presentation and Judging**

***"Diagnostic Role of the Clinical Laboratory in Hematologic Malignancies"***  
Lubna Siddiqui, MSHS, MSc, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

***"Addressing Challenges in Specimen Collection"***  
LaShanta Brice, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> SH<sup>CM</sup>

<i>Location: Bluebonnet A</i>	<b>Student Bowl Finale</b> Duncan Samo, MLS(ASCP)
<b>10:00 am – 10:30 am</b> <i>Location: Bluebonnet Foyer</i>	<b>Visit with Vendors</b>
<b>10:30 am – 11:30 am</b> <i>Location: Bluebonnet BC</i>	<b>Opening Keynote</b> <b>"Telling your Story!"</b> Rodney E. Rohde, PhD, MS, SM/SV/MBcm, FACSc, Global Fellow
<b>11:30 am – 1:00 pm</b>	Visit with Vendors and Lunch Break
<b>11:30 am – 1:00 pm</b> <i>Location: Bluebonnet BC</i>	Student Forum Meeting (Box Lunches Provided for Students)
<b>1:00 pm – 2:00 pm</b> <i>Location: Bluebonnet BC</i>	<b>"The ABC's of the Alphabet Soup: Labeling yourself for Laboratory Success"</b> Miles Tompkins, MLT(ASCP) <sup>CM</sup> ,PBT <sup>CM</sup> ,QLS <sup>CM</sup> ,AHI(AMT)
<i>Location: Bluebonnet A</i>	<b>"Saved by the Lab: The Enduring Role of Routine Coagulation Testing in Patient Care"</b> LaShanta Brice, DCLS, MLS(ASCP) <sup>CM</sup> SH <sup>CM</sup>
<b>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</b> <i>Location: Bluebonnet BC</i>	<b>"Alternative Career Paths for Laboratory Professionals"</b> Brittany J. Bell, MBA, MS, MLS(ASCP) <sup>CM</sup> , MB(ASCP) <sup>CM</sup>
<i>Location: Bluebonnet A</i>	<b>"Common Misconceptions about Abnormal Laboratory Values"</b> Russell Wendt, DCLS, DrPH, CC(NRCC), MLS(ASCP) <sup>CM</sup>
<b>3:15 pm – 4:15 pm</b> <i>Location: Bluebonnet BC</i>	<b>"HLA Basics for Beginners: Foundations for Transplant and Transfusion Support"</b> Kelley M.K. Hitchman, MS, PhD, F(ACHI) Tiffany Wafford, PhD, MSTM, MLS(ASCP) <sup>CM</sup> , SBB
<i>Location: Bluebonnet A</i>	<b>"The Good, the Bad, and the Cockamamie... Case Investigations in Clinical Chemistry"</b> Brian Postek, Ph.D MLS(ASCP) <sup>SC</sup>
<b>4:15 pm – 4:30 pm</b>	Break in Foyer – Get your Lab Olympics team ready, all can participate
<b>4:30 pm – 6:30 pm</b> <i>Location: Bluebonnet A</i>	<b>Lab Olympics</b>
<b>6:30 pm – 10:00 pm</b> <i>Location: Bluebonnet BC</i>	<b>TACLS Reception</b> <i>Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar and Entertainment</i>

**Friday, April 10, 2026**

<b>8:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>	Registration
<b>8:00 am - 9:00 am</b> <i>Location: Foyer</i>	Breakfast for Hotel Guests in Lobby/Restaurant
<b>8:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>	Exhibits
<b>9:00 am – 10:00 am</b> <i>Location: Bluebonnet BC</i>	<b><i>“Culturing the Right Candidate: How to Grow Your Laboratory Team with a Successful Interview”</i></b> Miles Tompkins, MLT(ASCP) <sup>CM</sup> , PBT <sup>CM</sup> , QLS <sup>CM</sup> , AHI(AMT)
<i>Location: Bluebonnet A</i>	<b><i>“Rabies: A New Look at an Old Foe”</i></b> Rodney E. Rohde, PhD, MS, SM/SV/MB <sup>CM</sup> , FACSc, Global Fellow
<b>10:00 am – 10:30 am</b>	Break in Foyer
<b>10:30 am – 11:30 am</b> <i>Location: Bluebonnet BC</i>	<b><i>“Using Molecular Tests the Right Way: A Guide for Clinicians and Laboratory Professionals”</i></b> Celesta Gibbs M.S., MB(ASCP) <sup>CM</sup> Kelissa Huse M.S., MB(ASCP) <sup>CM</sup>
<i>Location: Bluebonnet A</i>	<b><i>“Tales from the Scope: Surprising Hematology and Body Fluid Cases”</i></b> Heather Parks, MS, MLS (ASCP) <sup>CM</sup> David Coura, MLS (ASCP) <sup>CM</sup> Brianna Espino, MS, MLS (ASCP) <sup>CM</sup> Coyle Kunz, MLS(ASCP)
<b>11:30 am – 1:15 pm</b> <i>Location: Bluebonnet BC</i>	<b>Award Presentation and Annual Board meeting w/ Box Lunches Provided (All are invited to attend)</b>
<b>1:15 pm – 2:15 pm</b> <i>Location: Bluebonnet BC</i>	<b><i>“Navigating Complex Immunoematology Cases”</i></b> Beverly Ruiz, MS, MLS(ASCP) <sup>CM</sup>
<i>Location: Bluebonnet A</i>	<b><i>“Invisible Engines of Care: Optimizing Night Shift Labs for Performance &amp; People”</i></b> Charles McDonald, MBA, MLS/ Laboratory Supervisor

TACLS is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E. ® Credit Program.