

# LABORATORY



## Goodbye Blue Skies....

By Leslie Nakagawa

...hello fall colors and cool, crisp air!

The endless summer concluded with our annual Summer Leadership meeting, held in Ellensburg, Washington. The Summer Leadership Meeting is an important opportunity to thoroughly review board reports, evaluate the budget, and discuss any new and existing business.

With a new ASCLS year, we welcomed new board and committee members as well - Nichole Curatolo (Secretary), Kara Martin (Promotion of the Profession), and Alex Steiner (Student Delegate). Welcome! And for those members who are continuing to serve and volunteer, thank you! I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your ASCLS-WA President.

With 260 members, we have to be proud of our membership numbers. Through the hard work of our membership committee (led by Tracey Gardner), we strive to recruit and retain members from our laboratory community. Membership packages, new professional promotions, and support for student memberships continue to aid in sustaining our membership numbers.

We host a number of well-attended continuing education events throughout the state - we have

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the President	1
Awards	1
ASCLS House of Delegates	2
Hematology/Hemostasis Scientific Assembly	3
Save the Date	3
Q&A With ASCLS-WA Student Representative	4
NWMLS 2015 Schedule	5

provided 73 (and counting!) PACE approved sessions. Our most notable CE event, the Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium, is coming up on October 14-17, which boasts 4 days of CE and an impressive vendor menu.

For the upcoming year, I am most excited about involving and inspiring more membership involvement. While membership matters, *active* membership keeps ASCLS-WA running! I am challenging the leadership team, professionals, and student members to reach out to each other, and connect through our shared vision and goals of the society. Providing outreach opportunities, reaching out to our local communities, and organizing social events are just a few of the ways to start this process. Look for upcoming announcements for these activities!

Most importantly, **thank you** to all who continue to renew memberships, attend continuing education events, and provide service for the society. I look forward to working with our growing membership and solidifying why your membership matters!

## ASCLS Awards at 2015 Spring Seminar

### Congratulations to...

**Member of the Year:** Sigrid Reymond

**Omicron Sigma:**

**State:** Brenda Kochis, Leonard Kargacin, Donna Reinbold, Tracey Gardner, Neva Wilson, Elizabeth Means, Margie Vaccaro

**Regional:** Sigrid Reymond, Terese Abreu, Leslie Nakagawa

**National:** Shawna Martin

**Keyes to the Future:** Nichole Curatolo, Crystal Scheifelbein, Jamie Choe

**President's Award:** Geneva Basye, Shawna Martin, Leslie Nakagawa, Teresa Nguyen

**Certificate of Merit:** Dana Guinn, Arlene Hing-Loh, Kristin Engstrom, Jenny Trnka, Kelly Morse, Stephanie Robinson

## ASCLS House of Delegates – Report from Atlanta

By Toni Okada

I attended the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Atlanta as a delegate from ASCLS-WA. Delegates vote to elect the next year's ASCLS officers and participate in the House of Delegates (HOD) which is similar to the House of Representatives where each state sends delegates based on the number of ASCLS members in their state. In addition, the state President, President Elect, Student Representative, and First Year Professional are also delegates. Of the total possible number of ASCLS delegates (308), 232 were credentialed and 214 were seated in the House of Delegates.

The HOD begins with a report from the ASCLS President on accomplishments for the year. These are a few of the highlights. As you probably know, ASCLS provides quality continuing education and a peer-reviewed journal (now electronic). In-person meetings at local, state, regional, and national levels allow members to network, form friendships, and discuss issues in depth; often with more meaningful outcomes than teleconferences and emails alone. The Leadership Academy increased the number of professional development opportunities and graduates have been very successful in taking on new roles in ASCLS. Consumer advocacy has been enhanced with Lab Tests On-Line which each day answers many consumer (patient) inquiries about their lab test results.

There were two issues to be discussed at this year's HOD. The first was a new definition of diversity. This evolved from the original Black Caucus which later became the Forum for the Concerns of Minorities. A task force was assigned last year to define diversity as it pertains to the membership of ASCLS and suggest ways to promote all types of diversity within ASCLS.

The proposed definition is:

*“ASCLS 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.”*

*State of Washington at the House of Delegates meeting in Atlanta.*



Although there was an objection to some of the wording, the proposed definition as originally written was adopted by the HOD.

The second issue was approval of the Patient Safety position paper. Position papers state ASCLS' official position so members, non-members, and other organizations will know where ASCLS stands. In this case, the position paper outlines patient safety competencies, states the need to teach patient safety in educational programs, and emphasizes the importance of including patient safety in certification and licensure exams. The discussion centered around the terms Clinical Laboratory Science (the profession) and Medical Laboratory Scientist (the certification). Once that distinction was made, the only revision proposed was to define medical laboratory professionals as MLS, MLT, phlebotomists, clinical lab assistants, and DCLS (Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Science) and use the term “medical laboratory professionals” instead of only MLS and MLT. This revision was approved by the HOD.

The Patient Safety position paper was approved by the HOD.

The new ASCLS officers were installed and the new president, Barbara Snyderman, gave her acceptance speech. Her themes are communication, involvement, and accountability.

The Mendelson Award was presented to Shawna Anderson for organizing the revision of the Body of

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Knowledge; Kathy Wesler for running the very successful E & R Silent Auction for 21 years; and Susie Zanto for serving as ASCLS President.

It was then time for commendations, a time for anyone who wishes, to recognize and thank the people who help make ASCLS the strong organization it is today. For example, in our region, Cathy Otto was thanked for leading the Patient Safety Committee for several years and she was welcomed back to Region IX as she had recently moved from Maryland. Judging by the number of commendations, ASCLS has very talented and

dedicated members who volunteer countless hours to their profession and their professional organization.

The ASCLS Annual Meeting is a time to attend outstanding scientific sessions, meet new friends and reconnect with long-time friends, and be part of the governance of the organization. It's exciting and energizing. I encourage any of you to become involved with ASCLS and become a delegate next year. The Annual Meeting will be in Philadelphia, another great city to explore!

## Hematology/Hemostasis Scientific Assembly in Atlanta, GA

By Leslie Nakagawa

Date: July 31, 2015

The Hematology/Hemostasis Scientific Assembly meeting was organized and conducted by the assembly chair, Elaine Keohane. There was a large mixture of new and seasoned laboratory professionals and educators, which provided a dynamic and productive foundation for the meeting. The meeting successfully identified volunteers to write articles for both ASCLS Today and the Clinical Laboratory Science journal. In addition, hematology/hemostasis related topics of interest were discussed in hopes of drawing larger audiences for upcoming continuing education events and articles. Watch for some exciting new developments and learning opportunities from this scientific assembly!

# Save the Date

## North West Medical Laboratory Symposium 2015

October 14–17<sup>th</sup>

At the Lynnwood Convention Center

For a list of sessions go to page 5

To register visit our website

[www.asclswa.org](http://www.asclswa.org)



Students and Professionals Mixer

Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM

Right across from the Lynnwood Convention Center

## Q&A With ASCLS-WA Student Representative



*Please welcome our new Student Representative Alex Steiner! She has done amazing work for ASCLS-WA so far and we are very lucky to have her as part of the team.*

**Q: *Where do you work?***

**A:** I work at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA.

**Q: *What is your position?***

**A:** I am a Medial Technologist or Medical Laboratory Scientist and I work in the Hematology Department

**Q: *How did you decide to go into Laboratory Science?***

**A:** I received my degree in Biochemistry from EWU and struggled getting a job. I actually had a friend tell me about the Medical Laboratory Scientist program at Sacred Heart and I looked into the program and found it very interesting. I applied, was accepted and I am so glad I did. It's a great program and I am really enjoying my job

**Q: *How did you get involved with ASCLS?***

**A:** I got involved with ASCLS at the very beginning of the year in my internship. When I was in college I was the president of our school's chemistry club, which was affiliated through a national certification, and I loved being a part of that. When I heard about ASCLS I knew right away I wanted to join. I love the community outreach and being involved with a national society is very rewarding.

**Q: *What do you like most about being a part of ASCLS?***

**A:** I really like meeting new people and interacting with

new students. I also enjoy planning events and getting people together and I am able to do that with ASCLS.

**Q: *Do you have any advice for students?***

**A:** I would say, don't stress yourself out too much. I know how hard the program is and how challenging it can be to be in it and still have a social life. Give yourself some time to relax and have fun every weekend. And when it gets super hard and you feel like you can't handle it, just remember the end product is worth it and you will be so happy with the decision to do the program.

**Q: *Why do you think students should join ASCLS?***

**A:** I think if students want to have fun and be a part of their community then ASCLS is a great place for them. Not to mention all of the help ASCLS gives when it comes to CE and just advice for medical laboratory professionals in general.

**Q: *Any plans for the future?***

**A:** I am not sure about the future. I think I would eventually like to go to Physicians Assistant school, but I am really enjoying my job right now and want to just work for a bit I think. See where the future leads I guess.

**Q: *What is the most interesting thing you have come across so far in your job?***

**A:** I think the coolest thing I have seen is a patient with Hairy Cell Leukemia, that was very interesting and something you study in school, but rarely ever see.

**Q: *Now for some fun questions! Do you have any pets?***

**A:** No pets! I did just move in with a friend who has a cat, so I guess she is like a surrogate pet. :)

**Q: *What is your favorite dessert?***

**A:** My favorite dessert is Molten Lava Cake with Vanilla ice cream.



# 2015 Northwest Medical

## Laboratory Symposium

October 14 - 17, 2015

Lynnwood Convention Center, Lynnwood, WA

### Education Sessions

#### Wednesday, 8:30 - 11:45 am

- The 3 Essential Fundamentals Needed to Make Lab Utilization Management Successful: Seattle Children's Chronicle
- The Clot Must Stop!!!
- GI Disease in the Age of Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Non-invasive Assessment of Liver Fibrosis // Chronic Liver Disease: Diagnosis and Management

All your favorite Exhibitors .....

Wed - Fri 11:45 am - 2:15 pm

#### Thursday, 8:30 - 11:45 am

- Primary Immunodeficiency Disease: Underdiagnosed at Any Age
- The Latest Innovations in Blood Transfusion: Red Blood Cell Molecular Testing & Pathogen Reduction
- Syphilis Disease and Testing // Cardiac Biomarkers in ACS and HF // Dx of Grave's Disease
- The Changing Face of the WA State Public Health Lab

#### Friday, 8:30 - 11:45 am

- Laboratory Risk Assessment - Do I Really Have To?!!!
- Case Studies in Coagulation and Red Cell Disorders
- Drug of Abuse Testing
- Molecular Diagnostics: Transforming the Diagnosis and Treatment of Infectious Diseases

#### Saturday, 8:30 - 11:45 am

- Using Patient Safety Competencies to Improve the Quality of Laboratory Services
- Introduction to Transplant / Preanalytical Variables Impacting Molecular Diagnostic Testing Pathology
- The Latest and Greatest in Clinical Microbiology: What You Need to Know
- Blood Bank Review for Non-Blood Bankers

### Exhibits

#### Wednesday, 2:15 - 5:30 pm

- IQCP & POCT! Managing Risk, Improving Quality, and Increasing the Value of Point of Care Testing
- Flow Cytometry: Principles and Clinical Applications in Hematologic Disorders // Lymphoid Neoplasms in Blood
- You Are What You Eat: Practical Nutrition Tips for Everyone // Interpreting Lab values in Renal Failure: Men in Black
- Microbiology Meets the 21st Century: Automation in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

#### Thursday, 2:15 - 5:30 pm

- Keep Calm and Carry On
- Pediatric Acute Leukemia
- Quality and Value Delivery From the Laboratory
- Anemia Testing in Clinical and Lab Medicine; Biomarkers in the Management of Breast and Prostate Cancer

#### Friday, 2:15 - 5:30 pm

- Useful Tips for Performing Employee Training and Competencies
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma
- Urine Culture Collection, the Perfect Specimen and Hospital Associated Infection Reporting
- Global Health Experiences in West Africa, Central Africa, Bolivia and Haiti

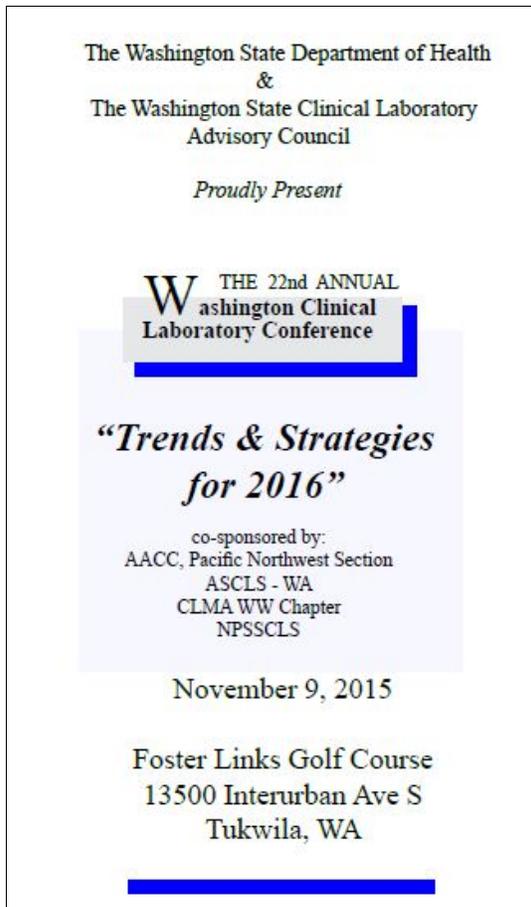
#### Saturday, 1:00 - 4:15 pm

- Laboratory: Cytologic Evaluation of Body Fluids
- To Phlebotomy and Beyond....The Changing Roles in the Medical Laboratory Sciences!
- Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Challenges

website:

[www.asclswa.org/NWMLS.html](http://www.asclswa.org/NWMLS.html)

# Plan to come!



Questions contact Leonard Kargacin at [Leonard.kargacin@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Leonard.kargacin@doh.wa.gov)

**Upcoming Events**

<a href="#">2015 NWMLS</a>	Lynnwood Convention Center	October 13-17, 2015
<a href="#">AABB</a>	Anaheim, CA	Oct. 25-27, 2015
<a href="#">"Trends &amp; Strategies for 2016"</a>	Foster Links Golf Course Tukwila, WA	November 9, 2015
<a href="#">Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC)</a>	Minneapolis MN	February 25-27, 2016



**Leah Daily Awarded Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity Graduate Scholarship**

Leah Daily was one of the recipients of an Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity (AMTF) scholarship.

She is an Education Technical Specials teaching in the MLS program in Spokane and enrolled in a Health Occupation Education graduate program. Congratulations!

[Alpha Mu Tau](#) is a national fraternity in ASCLS whose purpose is the advancement of professionals in the clinical laboratory sciences. Granting graduate and undergraduate scholarships for clinical laboratory science students is a prime activity. Twenty to twenty five Graduate and Undergraduate scholarships are awarded annually in amounts from \$1,000.00 to \$3,000.00.

