



# Lab Oratory

Winter 2014

Co-editors  
Molly Morse  
and Jamie Choe

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## President's Message

By Sigrid Reymond



While we usually take a break from professional activities, this year we decided to offer more opportunities to our membership to get involved and attend CE events.

For the first time in a number of years, ASCLS-WA was able to hold a summer CE event, the Summer Leadership Conference, presented by the Tacoma-Olympia district. Under the district's energetic president, Tracey Gardner, ASCLS-WA offered a free 1.0 PACE credit CE event at Providence St. Peter's Hospital in Olympia. In addition to a light continental breakfast provided by attending members, Dr. Rich Whitten gave a great talk on protein electrophoresis and its applications in the clinical laboratory.



Another opportunity for members to get involved this summer was the summer board meeting on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at Providence St. Peter's Hospital in Olympia. This meeting ran from 8am to 5pm in the medical staff conference room near the cafeteria. We discussed and voted on important issues such as a new strategic plan and budget for the society. This meeting will help us meet member's needs better by reviewing and further coordinating our activities as a society. All members were welcome to attend and provide input.

Finally, spring is just around the corner and registration for the ASCLS-WA Spring Seminar in April has started. This year's seminar is in the beautiful Spokane, WA Convention Center. We have another great lineup of PACE accredited talks organized by our hardworking team of board members and volunteers, the Children's Miracle Network raffle, a luncheon, a Student Poster Session, and a board meeting the evening of Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. All members are welcome to attend this board meeting as well.

## Spokane Society CLS (SSCLS) Awards Two Scholarships

By Margie Vaccaro

Marie Ann Smith and Amy Beth Fitterer received the SSCLS Student Scholarship of \$300.00. They were awarded their scholarship money at the SSCLS Student Welcome Party in October 2013.

## ASCLS-WA Awards the \$500 Student Scholarship

By Margie Vaccaro

The \$500 ASCLS-WA Student Scholarship was awarded to Jonathan Lord. Jonathan has been attending college and started the Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center (PSHMC) MT Program. Jonathan is exceptional. He continues to work and support his family with six children and attend the PSHMC Medical Technology Program as a full time student. He works as a supplemental lab assistant at PSHMC.

We wish Jonathan all the best! Jonathan considers the ASCLS beneficial to him for keeping up with current information concerning the profession, CE, career opportunities and networking. We wish Jonathan the best and we hope to see him continue his ASCLS affiliation.

## ASCLS Student Scholarships

April 1 Deadline

[Alpha Mu Tau](#) Fraternity (AMTF) is a national fraternity whose purpose is the advancement of granting of graduate and undergraduate scholarships for clinical laboratory science students. Applicant for graduate scholarships must be ASCLS member professionals in the clinical laboratory sciences. One of the prime activities of the fraternity is the

The **ASCLS Education and Research Fund** is the charitable foundation of ASCLS and was founded to encourage and assist educational and scientific research in the field of medical laboratory science. The Fund's Scholarship Program supports education for students, practitioners and educators. Graduate applicants must be ASCLS members

**Award:** Recipients of these scholarships are announced at the ASCLS Awards Ceremony and the Alpha Mu Tau winners are also announced at the annual AMTF dinner; both occur at the ASCLS Annual Meeting.

[Scholarship deadline is April 1, 2014.](#) Undergraduate students (\$1500) and graduate students \$3000) are awarded for qualified applicants.

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*“Alpha Mu Tau  
Fraternity and Education  
and Research fund  
scholarships each year!”*

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## Education, Experience, Leadership

The **2014 Legislative Symposium** is **March 17-18, 2014** in **Washington D.C.**

The Legislative Symposium provides a great education on the how to lobbying.

Attendees:

- Are coached to effectively talk to congressional representatives during their appointments
- Are well received in the congressional offices
- Will return with first-hand knowledge of the political system in action
- Gain confidence that they make a difference

ASCLS-WA will partially sponsor 2-3 Delegates to attend the Legislative Symposium. If interested contact Sigrid Reymond before Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> registration deadline. ASCLS-WA service will be considered in delegate appointments.



## ASCLS Patient Resources for Laboratory Test Questions

By Molly Morse

Susan Leclair, PhD. is Chancellor Professor, Department of Medical Laboratory Science at University of Massachusetts. I attended a session that she presented at the ASCLS Convention in Houston this last summer. The ASCLS website has a link "Ask about your lab tests" at <http://www.ascls.org/learn-more-about-your-laboratory-tests>

Patient can use the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Web site to inquire about the meaning of your lab test results. Information provided through this free Consumer Information Response Service ("the Service") is not intended to be medical advice and should not be relied on as such. A group of laboratory medicine professionals volunteer to provide this service. The service was started in 1994 with the first cancer online resource that was patient moderated (<http://www.acor.org/>)

Although the laboratory provides the largest single source of objective, scientific data on patient status, it is only one part of a complex biological picture of health or disease. As professional clinical laboratory scientists, our goal is to assist patients in understanding the purpose of laboratory tests and the general meaning of laboratory results.

\It is important that patients communicate with their physician. The information provided through this Service is not intended to substitute for consultations with a physician nor specific medical advice to your health condition.

Volunteer laboratory professionals are assigned to a discipline, and are scheduled day(s) to respond to patient questions. The network of Q&A's responded to one question a week in 1999 with a group of 7 people. Joyce Behrens, Hematology Faculty, Department of Laboratory Medicine at University of Washington was one of the original members. Her passing left a void in the network for some time. In 2013, the laboratory network has grown to 40 volunteers receiving 75 questions a day. Patients and other professionals use this resource.

If you think that you are **interested in volunteering**, please contact Susan Leclair at [Sleclair@umassd.edu](mailto:Sleclair@umassd.edu) You will sign a confidentiality form, and work with a mentor until you feel comfortable. You will be assigned a day to respond to questions, **and receive 10 hours of continuing education PACE credits each year!** This is an opportunity to give back to the community and with your background experience and knowledge help others.



Susan Leclair PhD  
Chancellor Professor, Department of  
MLS at University of Massachusetts

## Professional Spotlight



Melody Mandrean a Clinical  
Laboratory Scientist

Currently working at Seattle Children's Hospital in the Core/Stat laboratory.

Favorite part of being an MLS:  
"The Medical Laboratory Scientist career is the perfect way for me to combine both my passion for science and my desire to help others. The diagnostic tests and "detective work" that I perform behind the scenes have a direct influence on the patient's care and diagnosis. This field is constantly evolving, and the work is challenging offering continuous learning opportunities."

Fun Fact:

"I was a third year Exercise Science and Nutrition major until I was forced to take a Clinical Microbiology class. By the second week of class I was hooked and began asking my professor what a career in the clinical sciences looked like. That class changed my course of study and eventually my career path, as I realized I had a passion and aptitude for the clinical sciences."



## Student Spotlight



Jacob Mackey current MLS student  
at UW Seattle class of 2015

**Favorite part of program so far:**  
"Learning to draw blood. I've never done it before and it was exciting to learn a new skill!"

**Fun Fact:**

"I used to work in a branch of law enforcement. I worked for El Dorado County Probation in Placerville CA, as an "On-Call" staff member as well as the Juvenile Court Work Program Coordinator for about 5 years. I had this job while in college and after I graduated. It was a valuable experience!"

**Dream Job:**

"I'm still trying to figure out what's available in the field as a MLS. I know I want to get into Molecular Diagnostics but not sure in what form."

## New WA State Phlebotomist Credentialing Requirements

To qualify for Medical Assistant-Phlebotomist (MA-Phlebotomist) in Washington

State certification applicant must:

Complete and submit the application, with an original signature, date, and fee.

Sign and date the application as proof of:

- Completion of high school education or its equivalent.
- The ability to read, write, and converse in the English language.

**Education and Training:**

- a) Successful completion of a phlebotomy program through a post-secondary school or college accredited by a regional or national accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Have your accredited post-secondary school or college mail your phlebotomy program official transcripts directly to the Department with the date of completion listed.

Or;

- b) Successful completion of a phlebotomy training program as attested by the phlebotomy training program's supervising healthcare practitioner.

Or;

- c) Military training or experience satisfies the training or experience requirements unless the secretary determines that the military training or experience is not substantially equivalent to the standards of this state. Provide official transcripts showing proof of your education, training, and experience.

**Experience:**

- List in date order your professional experience and practice from date of completion from your accredited phlebotomy program or phlebotomy training program. Include the month, day, and year.
- Seven hours of AIDS education and training as required under WAC 246-827.

For more information go to

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/651007.pdf>



*Spokane Convention Center*  
**April 24-26, 2014**  
 334 West Spokane Falls Blvd,  
 Spokane, WA 99201  
[www.spokanecenter.com](http://www.spokanecenter.com)  
 Phone: (509) 279-7000

## 2014 Spring Seminar: Spokane Convention Center (SCC)

The [2014 Spring Seminar Program](#) is already available online, and you can also [register online](#). It can't be any easier than that. Start planning for your spring get away, and plan for sunny blue skies in Spokane.

The Spokane Convention Center sits on the bank of the Spokane River, adjacent to 100-acre Riverfront Park in the heart of downtown Spokane, yet it is within walking distance to fine dining, exquisite hotels and a wide variety of shopping and entertainment. Spacious, open lobbies offer comfortable areas for attendees to network, check e-mail, or just relax.

Also within the SCC campus are many outdoor locations, such as a peaceful arbor, breezeway, and roof deck patio, each graced with an intimate view of the Spokane River.

## Spokane Society Busy

*By Margie Vaccaro*

The Spokane Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (SSCLS) had a "Student Welcome Party" on October 18, 2013. Members helped explain what ASCLS is and how professional membership can help them throughout their career.

SSCLS worked on the ASCLS-WA 2014 Spring Seminar to be held in Spokane WA on April 24-26, 2014. Margie Vaccaro, General Program Chair gives a big "thank you" to Brenda, Shawna, Lisa, Cynthia, Leah, Cassie and Lensa for their support and help in program and conference planning.

## Student Poster Session at the 2014 Spring Seminar

*By Margie Vaccaro*

The Student Poster Session will be presented at the ASCLS-WA Spring Seminar. The conference dates are April 24-26, 2014 at the Spokane Convention Center. April is just around the corner, so don't waste time registering. Go online to [www.asclswa.org](http://www.asclswa.org) to view conference program and poster topics.

The poster session provides an opportunity for attendees to earn extra CE credits by viewing posters, and answering a few questions. The PSHMC MT Students and hopefully the University of Washington will participate. Students from Providence Sacred Heart do a poster presentation as part of their course work. Students pick their topic and present information on a poster. Students will be present to answer questions about their posters.

One of the MLS NAACLS standards for accreditation is the incorporation of research design in the curriculum. Students evaluate the principles and practices of a clinical study, implement a research design, and disseminate the results. Knowledge and experience gained from their research projects will help them in the future to evaluate published studies as an informed medical laboratory scientist. Several students from various MLS programs in the Washington State will be presenting their research at the ASCLS-WA Spring Seminar.

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Go to  
[www.asclswa.org/SpringSeminar.html](http://www.asclswa.org/SpringSeminar.html) for more  
 information about the  
 Spring Seminar

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## Upcoming Events



### Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (MLPW) will take place April 20-26, 2014.

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week originated in 1975 as National Medical Laboratory Week, or NMLW, under the auspices of the American Society for Medical Technology, now called the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). In subsequent years, other organizations have served as cosponsors and campaign supporters. MLPW, which takes place the last full week in April each year, is coordinated by a collaborative committee with representatives from 14 national clinical laboratory organizations, including ASCLS. Now in its 38th year, it is important to reflect on the important history of MLPW.

MLPW provides the profession with a unique opportunity to increase public understanding of and appreciation for clinical laboratory personnel. Read about fun ideas to celebrate. Visit the official MLPW store to purchase promotional items to help celebrate and promote the week.

Event	When
<b>"Quality Control and DxH Troubleshooting"</b> Kathy Davison Altig, BS, MT(ASCP) Beckman Coulter Sponsor: Columbia Basin Society for CLS <a href="#">Brochure</a>	Feb. 13, 2014 4:00pm  Yakima, WA
<a href="#">ASCLS Legislative Symposium</a> Washington D.C.	Registration Deadline: Feb. 15th  March 17-18, 2014
<a href="#">Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference (CLEC)</a> San Jose, CA	February 20-22, 2014
<a href="#">2014 Spring Seminar</a> Spokane, WA	April 24-26, 2014
<a href="#">ASCLS Annual Meeting</a> Chicago, IL	July 29-August 2, 2014
2014 Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium Portland, OR	October 1-4, 2014

## Did you know?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor projects that the employment of medical laboratory technicians and scientists will increase by 14% through the year 2016.

According to Jobs Rated Almanac, medical laboratory science has 25% job growth and good job security. Among health related professions, it currently ranks #3.

Currently there is a shortage in many parts of the country guaranteeing employment and higher salaries for graduates.

ASCLS Region IX website: [www.asclsr9.org](http://www.asclsr9.org) – Check it out!  
 ASCLS Region IX is the regional affiliate of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science residing in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.  
 The State societies under ASCLS Region IX are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington.