



# *The 31st Annual Washington Clinical Laboratory Conference*

*“Trends & Strategies for 2025”*

**REGISTRATION FLYER**



**ASCLS – WA**

February 25, 2025

VIRTUAL EDITION

## *Agenda*

- 9:00 – 9:05**                    **Welcome**
- 9:05 – 9:10**                    **Opening Remarks**  
Vince Aoki, PhD  
Acting Director, Washington State Public Health Laboratories
- 9:15 – 10:45**                    **Keynote Address:**  
***“Laboratory Payment & Policy Briefing: The New Washington Reality in 2025”***  
Dennis Weissman
- 10:45 – 11:00**                    ***BREAK***
- 11:00 – 11:45**                    ***“Candida auris in Washington State: Current Update”***  
Emily Schneider, MPH; Sopheay Hun, MBA, MLS(ASCP)
- 11:45 – 12:30**                    ***“Updates from the Washington State Medical Test Sites Program”***  
Jessica Holloway, BSMLS, MLS(ASCP)
- 12:30 – 1:15**                    ***“Washington State Prevalence Updates on Syphilis”***  
Kari Haecker, BS; Silas Hyzer, MS
- 1:15 – 1:30**                    **Wrap Up**



### **P.A.C.E CREDIT**

P.A.C.E. credits are available for this program. ASCLS-WA is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program.



**ONLINE REGISTRATION  
CONFERENCE FEE: \$35.00.**

Thank you for your interest in the laboratory conference. As in the past couple years, the conference will be a virtual format and we are using MS Teams as the platform.

This is the direct link to the [CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM](https://form.jotform.com/250296427417056) as well as URL in case the direct link is not working. <https://form.jotform.com/250296427417056>



**Trends & Strategies for 2025  
Speaker and Session Information**  
Level: Intermediate P.A.C.E credits will be available

**“Laboratory Payment & Policy Briefing: The New Washington Reality in 2025”**

U.S. national elections always have consequences for the future direction of health policy affecting the clinical lab sector and this is particularly so this year when both the White House & Congress are in the hands of the same political party.

This session will discuss how labs are responding to key trends influencing today’s larger healthcare landscape. The speaker will analyze current Medicare reimbursement and policy issues affecting labs and pathologists and help participants anticipate what to expect at the national level in the year ahead. Finally, an overview of the post-election terrain for the healthcare sector and its practical implications for clinical labs will be presented.

**Speaker: Dennis Weissman**

Dennis Weissman is a nationally known, independent analyst, consultant, speaker, and thought leader for the clinical laboratory and anatomic pathology sectors for over three decades. Dennis is President of Dennis Weissman & Associates, LLC, Falls Church, VA, a consultancy which provides market intelligence, business leadership, public policy advice and M&A advisory services to diagnostic and life science companies. Previously, he founded and served as president to Washington G2 Reports (now G2 Intelligence.)



## **“Washington State Prevalence Updates on Syphilis”**

This presentation will review epidemiologic syphilis data over the last 10 years, talk about the changing profile of who is acquiring syphilis, discuss the role of the laboratory in syphilis diagnosis and reporting and speak about best practices for labs and providers.

### **Speakers: Kari Haecker and Silas Hyzer**

The Washington State Department of Health.

Kari is the Capacity Building Coordinator for DOH. Since 2007, Kari has held several positions in governmental public health in both the states of Indiana and Washington. Kari has served in multiple roles as an HIV tester, disease intervention specialist and other roles in the field of STD prevention.

Silas is the Syphilis Epidemiologist for DOH. He has worked in public health for over 10 years, with a focus on HIV and sexually transmitted infections. His current work centers on monitoring syphilis trends and supporting public health interventions to reduce transmission.



## **“*Candida auris* in Washington State: Current Update”**

Since its discovery in 2009, *Candida auris* has emerged as a fungal pathogen of public health and clinical concern. *C. auris* has spread widely internationally and nationally and was first detected in Washington State in 2023 and has since led to detections and several outbreaks across the state. This presentation will provide both updates on the epidemiology of *Candida auris*, testing guidelines for clinical lab partners, and updates to *Candida* testing at the Washington State Public Health Laboratories.

**Speaker: Emily Schneider, MPH**, is the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network West Regional Epidemiologist for the Washington State Department of Health Public Health Laboratories. She has a background in both microbiology and epidemiology, allowing her to work closely with public health and clinical lab, and infection prevention partners.

**Speaker: Sophey Hun, MBA, MLS(ASCP)**, is the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network Coordinator for the Washington State Public Health Laboratory.



## “Washington State Medical Test Sites Program Updates”

Amendments to the chapter 246-338 WAC went into effect on December 28, 2024, which allowed the state to comply with federal requirements. New personnel requirements are in place for laboratory directors and other personnel. This presentation will also provide information on existing regulations which many medical test sites fail to achieve compliance. Medical test sites and directors will be given tips for compliance.

**Speaker: Jessica Holloway, BSMLS, MLS(ASCP)**, is the Facilities Program Manager for Medical Test Sites in Washington State.

Jessica has served as the facilities program manager for medical test sites and blood establishments at the Washington State Department of Health since November 2022. In her role as the facilities program manager, she provides program expertise for the development of interpretive statements, rules, and legislation review for medical test sites and blood establishments. Her position also offers licensing technical assistance and oversight of proficiency testing compliance for laboratories in Washington. Prior to her current role, she spent over 10 years working in a public health laboratory in north Texas.



## Conference Objectives

At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will have learned, or will be able to:

- Discuss how the lab sector is influenced by major healthcare industry trends and the status of Medicare reimbursement policy developments under PAMA.
- Discuss the most recent trends for syphilis surveillance in Washington State.
- Discuss current testing available for *Candida auris* and the national and statewide *Candida auris* epidemiology.
- Discuss the new education requirements for laboratory directors and other personnel and use appropriate forms to notify MTS of updates.

