



The 33rd Annual Washington Clinical Laboratory Conference

“Trends & Strategies for 2027”

REGISTRATION FLYER



Washington State Department of
HEALTH



ASCLS – WA

November 9, 2026

VIRTUAL EDITION

Agenda

9:00 – 9:05	Welcome
9:05 – 9:15	Opening Remarks Vince Aoki, PhD Acting Director, Washington State Public Health Laboratories
9:15 – 10:45	Keynote Address: <i>“Laboratory Payment & Policy Briefing; What Labs Can Expect in 2027 & Beyond”</i> Dennis Weissman
10:45– 11:30	<i>“Keeping Compliant: MTS Deficiency Trends and CLIA Regulatory Updates”</i> Hannah Baker, DCLS, B.S., MLS(ASCP) ^{CM}
11:30 – 12:15	<i>“Leveraging LOINC Codes to Identify Race-Based GFR Estimation: Advancing Health Equity through Laboratory Data Assessment and Laboratory Practice Standardization”</i> M.J. Lewis, BS /Claire Johnson, MPH
12:15 – 1:00	<i>“Using AI to evaluate literally all of a cancer tissue sample”</i> Larry True, MD
1:00 – 1:45	<i>“Public Health Updates”</i> Scott Lindquist, MD
1:45 – 2:00	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 of 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://pci.jotform.com/form/262745283076968) as well as URL in case the direct link is not working.

<https://pci.jotform.com/form/262745283076968>



**Trends & Strategies for 2027
Speaker and Session Information
Level: Intermediate P.A.C.E credits will be available**

“Laboratory Payment & Policy Briefing; What Labs Can Expect in 2027 & Beyond”

The clinical laboratory industry is entering one of the most dynamic and uncertain policy environments in decades. The outcome of the 2026 midterm elections, continued federal budget pressures, evolving Medicare payment policies, rapid advances in precision medicine and artificial intelligence, and shifting regulatory priorities will all influence how laboratories are reimbursed, regulated, and expected to demonstrate value in the years ahead. This briefing will provide a strategic outlook on the legislative, regulatory, and market forces likely to shape laboratory medicine through 2027 and beyond. Participants will receive an in-depth update on Medicare's Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule (CLFS), the future of PAMA reform, coverage and payment trends at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and emerging issues affecting molecular diagnostics, genomic testing, and digital pathology. 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.)



“Keeping Compliant: MTS Deficiency Trends and CLIA Regulatory Updates”

This presentation covers topics discussed in the 2024 CLIA final rule update made on December 28, 2024, which updated Subpart M laboratory personnel requirements- the first major revision since 1992- this includes qualification and competency changes for Laboratory Directors, Testing Personnel, and delegated duties. Attendees will also review frequent MTS survey deficiencies: competency assessment gaps, citable eyewash/safety station issues, calibration verification, method comparisons, and lapses in director review and sign-off of policies and procedures.

Speaker: Hannah Baker, DCLS, BS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, serves as Manager of the Medical Test Site (MTS) program at the WA DOH where she previously worked as a MTS surveyor and investigator. Dr. Baker holds a Doctor of Clinical Laboratory Science from Rutgers School of Health Professions and a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh.



“Leveraging LOINC Codes to Identify Race-Based GFR Estimation: Advancing Health Equity through Laboratory Data Assessment and Laboratory Practice Standardization”

The National Kidney Foundation will deliver a presentation that:

- demonstrates a laboratory-driven approach for leveraging Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) to identify laboratories still using race-adjusted eGFR equations and
- informs support needed by those laboratories and ordering clinicians to facilitate implementation of the 2021 CKD-EPI eGFR.

Speakers: M. J. Lewis, BS, and Claire Johnson, MPH
The National Kidney Foundation

M.J. Lewis supports creation and maintenance of CKDintercept tools and resources for earlier chronic kidney disease identification and management. She also focuses on laboratory-related issues – specifically implementation of the 2021 CKD-EPI eGFR equation throughout the clinical lab community and advancing transition to eGFR for medication-relation decisions in adults in the U.S. pharmacy community.

Claire Johnson is a healthcare system change agent dedicated to transforming chronic kidney disease outcomes across California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, and Minnesota. In her role as Population Health Partnership Director at the National Kidney Foundation, she specializes in primary care integration and scalable, sustainable population health strategies that turn complex public health challenges into practical clinical workflows.



“Using AI to evaluate literally all of a cancer tissue sample”

Current pathology practice is to sample tissue by 4 micron sections to diagnose cancer and assess margins. Residual tissue is saved for biomarker studies. I shall describe the instruments and procedures used to comprehensively sample and view tissue in 3D without consuming any tissue. AI methods enable viewing hundreds of virtual samples while preserving all residual tissue for future biomarker studies.

Speaker: Larry True, MD Following pathology residency in Colorado he served on faculties of the University of Chicago, Yale, and, since 1991, the University of Washington. At UW he combined clinical work as leader of the GU pathology subspecialty group with research focused on the molecular phenotype of prostate cancer (primary, metastatic and treatment-resistant in a rapid autopsy program). In the past ten years he has worked with mechanical engineer Jon Liu developing and applying 3D microscopy to tissue.



“Public Health Updates 2026 in Washington State”

This presentation will review the main infectious diseases that Washington State experienced in 2026, including Ebola, Hantavirus, Measles and Hemophilus influenza outbreaks.

Speaker: Scott Lindquist, MD Dr. Lindquist has combined all the aspects of his training as a Health Officer/Director of Health for the Kitsap County Health District from 2001–2014. In addition, he serves as a pediatrician and public health officer at the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribal Medical Clinic where he has worked one day a week since 2001. Dr. Lindquist has been the Washington State Tuberculosis medical consultant from 2002-2021 and currently serves as the Medical State Epidemiologist for Washington State. He also serves as chief medical officer for Public Health Solutions International (PHSI), which is an international consulting company that provides consultation to current world public health problems.



Conference Objectives

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

- Discuss the potential impact of PAMA reform, CMS payment policies, and federal budget initiatives on laboratory reimbursement and financial performance.
- Describe strategies for laboratory and clinician outreach that support engagement and transition to race-free reporting.
- Discuss and identify common MTS survey deficiencies and strategies to strengthen laboratory practices.
- Discuss the advantages of viewing cancer by 3D rather than conventional 2D microscopy.
- Discuss the current measles outbreak in Washington State.

