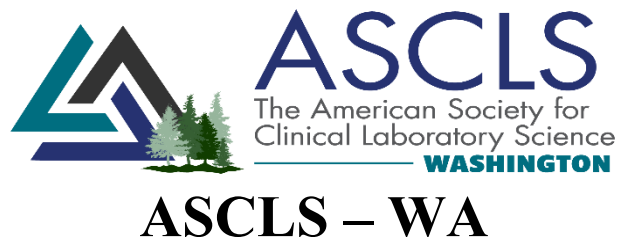




The 32nd Annual Washington Clinical Laboratory Conference

“Trends & Strategies for 2026”

REGISTRATION FLYER



November 17, 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 for 2026” Dennis Weissman
10:45 – 11:00	<i>BREAK</i>
11:00 – 11:45	“Orthohantavirus ecology, transmission, disease prevalence and genotype distribution in the U.S.” Shannon Whitmer, PhD. /Brian Amman, PhD.
11:45 – 12:30	“Chagas Disease Prevention and Surveillance in Washington State” Hanna Oltean, PhD.
12:30 – 1:15	“Hot Topics in Public Health 2025” Scott Lindquist, MD, MPH.
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. Level for all sessions is Intermediate.



**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. **Please complete registration by Friday, November 14, 2025.**

This is the URL link for registration: <https://form.jotform.com/252745808841970>



**Trends & Strategies for 2026
Speaker and Session Information**
Level: Intermediate P.A.C.E credits will be available

“Laboratory Payment & Policy for 2026”

The second Trump Administration has been marked by a significant shift in the political landscape with major implications for federal agencies (e.g., CMS, CDC & FDA) having the most direct impact on the clinical laboratory industry.

This session will analyze key Medicare reimbursement and policy issues affecting labs and pathologists including the latest proposed legislation to fix PAMA along with the status of LDT oversight now that FDA rulemaking has been officially axed. Finally, the speaker will help participants understand what labs can expect in the year ahead based on evolving national policy developments & trends. Amid the dizzying array of presidential executive orders, the Administration is advancing the so-called “unitary executive theory” which asserts the president has unlimited power to control the actions of the executive branch and its personnel.

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.)



“Orthohantavirus ecology, transmission, disease prevalence and genotype distribution in the U.S.”

Spillover of zoonotic viruses into human populations, specifically Orthohantaviruses, involves a process that includes the virus, the animal reservoir, and humans. Understanding the underlying ecology of this process at all three levels is crucial to the development of preventative measures and creating public health strategies to limit spillover events.

In the United States (U.S.), hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) and non-HPS hantavirus infection are nationally notifiable diseases. Criteria for identifying human cases are based on clinical symptoms (HPS or non-HPS) and acute diagnostic results (IgM+, rising IgG+ titers, RT-PCR+, or immunohistochemistry (IHC)+). Here we provide an overview of diagnostic testing and summarize human Hantavirus disease occurrence and genotype distribution in the U.S. from 2008 to 2020.

Speakers: Shannon Whitmer Ph.D. and Brian Amman Ph.D.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Shannon Whitmer is a microbiologist in the CDC Viral Special Pathogens Branch, Diagnostics and Capacity Building Team. She performs next generation sequencing, new diagnostic assay development, and virus isolation for viral hemorrhagic fever viruses. Dr. Whitmer studies how viral hemorrhagic fever viruses evolve over time and designs tools for visualizing genetic epidemiology data during viral outbreaks.

Brian Amman is an ecologist for the CDC's Viral Special Pathogens Branch, Virus Host Ecology Team. Dr. Amman studies the ecology of, and relationships between, emerging zoonotic viruses and their natural reservoirs. He has participated in many mammal-borne disease outbreak investigations including Marburg, Ebola, Sudan, and Reston viruses internationally and outbreaks of hantavirus pulmonary syndrome and lymphocytic choriomeningitis in the United States. He has also participated in long-term longitudinal virus-host reservoir ecological studies in West and East Africa and in the southwestern United States.



“Chagas Disease Prevention and Surveillance in Washington State”

Chagas disease is a vector borne illness caused by the protozoan parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*. Most cases of Chagas disease diagnosed in Washington are among individuals born in Latin America and their children. Left untreated, chronic Chagas disease will lead to potentially fatal cardiac or gastrointestinal symptoms in 20-30% of patients. National screening guidance is in place but rarely implemented. This presentation will cover background information on Chagas disease, screening guidance, and laboratory algorithms for screening implementation.

Speaker: Hanna Oltean, PhD, Senior Epidemiologist, Washington State Department of Health. She currently leads the Zoonotic and Vector-borne Disease Program, in the Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology. Her work focuses on disease prevention and surveillance system design, implementation, and evaluation using a One Health approach.



“Hot Topics in Public Health 2025”

This presentation will review the outbreaks and issues we are facing in 2025 as they apply to the greater public health community. And will also review the top pathogens for 2025 and beyond. It will also include the current CDC and Public Health structure of the Western States and an overview of the future directions for public health.

Scott Lindquist, MD, MPH, completed his medical training at the University of Washington School of Medicine as a student of the WAMI (Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) program. He completed a residency in pediatrics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an Infectious Disease Fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. He completed his Masters in Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Lindquist has drawn upon this broad background to focus upon underserved populations and infectious diseases. He 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 since 2002 and currently serves as the State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases and Deputy Health Officer for Washington State.



Conference Objectives

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

- Describe what laboratories can expect in the coming year based on evolving national policy developments & trends.
- Discuss the relevance hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) outbreaks in the United States, the criteria for detecting positive hantavirus cases, and the seasonal prevalence of Hantavirus disease in the US.
- Discuss the risk factors for Chagas disease, the national screening recommendations, and implementation of appropriate laboratory screening protocols.
- Discuss the top pathogens for 2025 based on laboratory impact, the current CDC and Public Health structure of the Western States, and the future directions for public health.

