



ASCLS
The American Society for
Clinical Laboratory Science
PENNSYLVANIA 

Joint Spring Meeting

**American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Pennsylvania**

**Pennsylvania State Society of
American Medical Technologists**

May 5 & 6, 2024

**Red Lion Hotel
Harrisburg, PA**

2024 Annual Meeting

Welcome to the 87th Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania affiliate of American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science and the Pennsylvania State Society of American Medical Technologists. The committee working on the Annual Meeting has put a great deal of effort into planning a comprehensive program for you. You will find within these pages the best continuing education and networking opportunities in the area.

We are excited to again offer an in-person educational event. ASCLS-PA and PASSAMT are dedicated to providing laboratory professionals with the continuing education they need to stay on top of our field and participate in BOC Certification Maintenance with 20 hours of PACE-approved continuing education credits through this in person meeting. We will also have a vendor hall to visit to get information about jobs, products, new instruments, and platforms they have to offer. A list of sponsors is found later in the program. A light breakfast and buffet lunch are included in your daily registration.

To stay up to date on everything ASCLS-PA, please visit us at our website, "www.ascls-pa.org." We hope that the traditions of the past and the changes for the future will produce an enjoyable meeting for you.

Register Online at www.ascls-pa.org

Member	\$110.00
Non-Member	\$160.00
Student Member	\$50.00
Student Non-Member	\$75.00



2024 Annual Meeting Planning Committee

General Chair:	Jean Buchenhorst
Program Chair:	Joshua Cannon
Vendor Chair:	Barbara Snyderman
Registration Chair:	Sharon Strauss
PACE Coordinator:	Katie Franz



General Meeting Schedule

Sunday, May 5, 2024:

3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	ASCLS-PA Board of Directors Meeting, Annual Business Meeting, & Awards Ceremony and Dinner All ASCLS members are welcome! Non-Members interested in getting involved are also welcome!
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Monday, May 6, 2024:

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Registration and <u>Dedicated Exhibit Time</u>
8:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	General Sessions (Check on site for room updates)
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<u>Dedicated Exhibit Time</u>
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.	General Session (Check on site for room updates)
12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Buffet Lunch <u>Dedicated Exhibit Time</u>
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	General Sessions (Check on site for room updates)
2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<u>Dedicated Exhibit Time</u>
2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	General Session (Check on site for room updates)
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	PASSAMT Business Meeting (All State Society AMT Members welcome)

P.A.C.E.® approval is pending for all sessions.
ASCLS-PA is an approved provider of C.E. programs by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program
The educational objectives for each session are printed on the session's evaluation sheet.
The level of each session is INTERMEDIATE unless otherwise noted.

Meeting & Program Sponsorships

We are deeply grateful for the support provided by the following sponsors. A complete listing will be prominently posted during the meeting. We encourage all attendees to take time throughout the day to stop by the vendor tables to gather information and see demonstrations of the latest technologies and laboratory services offered by our industry partners.



General Program

8:30–9:30 AM SESSIONS

Session #1

Session Code: _____

“Review of HLA Testing from Past to Present, and the Next Frontier of HLA Testing for Solid Organ and Bone Marrow Transplantation”

Ethan Kentzel, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}
Program Director, MLS and Phlebotomy Programs
Reading Hospital, Reading, PA

The primary purpose of this presentation is to inform attendees about the importance of HLA when it comes to solid organ and bone marrow transplantation. Participants will explore topics such as: HLA genes, HLA proteins, HLA structure and function, antibody screening, as well as historical serological testing to contemporary molecular testing methods with a prelude of where HLA testing may go next with epitope analysis!

Session #2

Session Code: _____

“Abnormal Blood and Bone Marrow Morphology: A Pediatric Oncology Perspective on Hematologic Malignancies”

Marybeth Helfrich, BSMT, ASCP
Medical Laboratory Scientist – Technical Chief
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Hematologic malignancies found in the pediatric population can be quite different than those found in adults. This session will explore the types of leukemias found in childhood using both peripheral blood morphology and bone marrow findings.

Session #3

Session Code: _____

“Fungal Infection Cases from Pennsylvania and Beyond”

Laurel Glaser, MD, PhD, D(ABMM)
Director, Clinical Microbiology
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

The speaker will focus on interesting fungal cases to include the clinical scenarios and risk factors that raise suspicion for fungal infections. She will discuss ways to distinguish the morphology of fungi commonly identified in clinical laboratories and ancillary methods for fungal detection complementary to culture.

Session #4

Session Code: _____

“U.S. Blood Supply in the Pre- and Post-pandemic Era”

Evelyn M. Potochny, DO
Associate Professor
Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Hershey, PA

In this session the speaker will review the constraints of the blood supply during the COVID-19 pandemic, methods used by hospital transfusion services to manage a limited blood inventory, and the evidence-based response by the blood industry to expand the donor pool.

9:45–10:45 AM SESSIONS

Session #5

Session Code: _____

“Cystic Fibrosis: Evaluation of Current Practices in Sweat Chloride Test and Quantity Not Sufficient Rates”

Daisy Unsihuay, PhD
Clinical Chemistry Fellow
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Given that quantity not sufficient (QNS) rates are used by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as a metric of the sweat chloride test performance, important considerations should be taken with regards to sample collection, processing, and result reporting to maintain QNS numbers within acceptable limits. In this session, discussion will also focus on different factors influencing the QNS rates and approaches to improve them.

Session #6

Session Code: _____

“How Blood Clots and Why the PT and aPTT Are So Bad at Predicting Abnormal Bleeding”

Michael H. Creer, MD
Distinguished Professor of Pathology
Chief, Division of Clinical Pathology
Penn State University College of Medicine
Hershey, PA

This presentation will cover the evolution in our knowledge of the mechanism for thrombus (clot) formation in vivo. The primary focus is to enhance understanding of the limitations of the aPTT and PT laboratory tests to predict abnormal bleeding.

Session #7

Session Code: _____

“Let’s Play Dr. House – Interesting Cases in Infectious Diseases”

Debra L. Powell, MD, MS, FIDSA
Chair of the Department of Medicine
Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases
Tower Health Reading Hospital
West Reading, PA

This speaker will present several Infectious Disease cases as unknowns in an interactive format, to obtain feedback from the group regarding the initial differential diagnosis, then to explore the workup, diagnose the condition, and determine appropriate treatment.

Session #8

Session Code: _____

“Stem Cell: General Lab Procedures”

Gabriela C. Peterson MHA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}
Stem Cell Technical Manager
University of Pennsylvania Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

This session will offer an in-depth view of the specific cell processings in the stem cell lab. Autologous HPC-apheresis cryopreservation, allogeneic infusions, DLI-escalating doses, bone marrow manipulations, cord blood processing and CD34 selections will be discussed. The importance of aseptic technique, flow cytometry analysis and sterility monitoring will be covered.

11:15 PM–12:15 PM SESSIONS**Session #9**

Session Code: _____

“The Changing Landscape of Urine Drug Screening at a Northeast U.S. Children’s Hospital”

Izmarie Poventud-Fuentes, PhD, DABCC, NRCC
Assistant Director of Clinical Chemistry Laboratory/Assistant Professor
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia/University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

This session will provide an overview of urine drug screen testing algorithms and the positivity patterns at a children’s hospital in the northeast U.S. The use of clinical laboratory information to understand and update urine drug screen testing practices will be demonstrated by (1) the changes implemented to a THC drug screen testing algorithm, and (2) the current challenges of identifying fentanyl poisoning at a children’s hospital.

Session #10

Session Code: _____

“D-Dimer: A Common Assay with Unique Challenges”

Olajumoke Oladipo, MD, DABCC, FCAP
Associate Professor of Pathology
Assistant Medical Director, Automated Testing Laboratory
Medical Director, Hematology and Coagulation
Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center
Hershey, PA

Venous thromboembolism (deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism) is a relatively frequent disease affecting as many as 900,000 Americans and about 100,000 premature deaths according to the CDC report. D-Dimer is currently considered the biochemical gold standard in the diagnosis of suspected venous thromboembolism (VTE). This analyte has unique challenges with analysis and interpretation that will be discussed in this session.

Session #11

Session Code: _____

“QC Best Practices and How to Prepare for this Year’s CLIA Changes”

Sten Westgard, MS
Director, Client Services and Technology
Westgard QC, Inc.
Madison, Wisconsin
Sponsored by Beckman

This July, CLIA is changing proficiency testing limits for the first time since 1992, shrinking them by 20-40%. The impact will not be felt equally across laboratories, instruments, and methods. Learn where the pain will be felt, and whether or not your laboratory is going to feel it. Not only will PT change, but the implementation of QC will have to change with it. Are there more Westgard Rules in your future, or less?

Session #12

Session Code: _____

“Blood in Emergencies – Massive Transfusion Protocols, Process Improvement, and Whole Blood”

Jenna T. Reece, MD, MS
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology, Perelman School of Medicine
Medical Director, Blood Bank & Microbiology, Chester County Hospital, West Chester, PA
Medical Director, Clinical Laboratory, HUP Cedar Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

In this session, the speaker will explore different strategies for optimizing the safe delivery of blood in emergencies for different practice settings, with a particular focus on community hospitals and small hospitals. This session will demonstrate how electronic as well as completely manual processes may be improved, with a focus on simplification, education, and unified terminology. Discussion will also focus on the benefits and drawbacks to different products that may be issued in emergencies, including whole blood.

1:15–2:15 PM SESSIONS**Session #13**

Session Code: _____

“The Ethics of Laboratory Medicine”

Melissa R. George, DO, FCAP, FASCP
Medical Director, Transfusion Medicine
Associate Dean, Continuing Education
Penn State Health
Hershey, PA

This session will provide an overview of the basic principles of medical ethics and will highlight ethical issues unique to laboratory medicine such as use of leftover samples, incidental findings, and stewardship. Interactive, real-world, ethical scenarios encountered in the clinical laboratory will be discussed.

Session #14

Session Code: _____

“Concise and Conformed Peripheral Blood Smear Morphology Review and Reporting”

Mary S. Dhese, MD
System Director of Hematology
Geisinger Medical Laboratory
Danville, PA

Peripheral blood smear morphologic reviews can be important, and often subjective, for patient results, particularly in the evaluation of anemia. International guidelines have been developed to try and help provide laboratorians with a standard reporting system. This session will include a review of red blood cell morphology and ways to help standardize reporting to help guide clinician care for patients with red blood cell abnormalities.

Session#15

Session Code: _____

“Next Generation Sequencing Applications in Clinical Microbiology”

Nicole Loeven, PhD
Clinical Microbiology Fellow
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

In this session, the speaker will give an overview of NGS to include the different tests that are commonly used that utilize NGS. The benefits and limitations of this technology including barriers to implementation will be discussed. There will also be a focus on the real-life utility of these tests and the reasons that these tests require robust diagnostic stewardship to ensure that they are ordered appropriately and that results are correctly interpreted by clinicians.

Session #16

Session Code: _____

“Opportunities for Diagnostic Stewardship in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory”

Courtney Comar, PhD, D(ABMM)
Associate Director of Clinical Microbiology
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

In this session the speaker will discuss the benefits and challenges of investigating test utilization and implementing diagnostic stewardship in the clinical microbiology laboratory. Specific examples of opportunities for test stewardship in the microbiology laboratory will be discussed. This session will help attendees understand the goals of diagnostic stewardship and identify possible opportunities and strategies for diagnostic stewardship in their own laboratory.

2:45–3:45 PM SESSIONS**Session #17**

Session Code: _____

“Healthcare in Cuba”
Barbara Snyderman, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, DLM(ASCP)^{CM}
Retired, Senior Laboratory Specialist, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics
Past President of ASCLS
Deptford, NJ

From hospitals to the local physician’s office, the session presenter will describe the challenges of antiquated equipment and the general health of the residents. A look inside the laboratories of hospitals will be included.

Session #18

Session Code: _____

“Beyond Base Pairs: The Enduring Value of Conventional Karyotyping Analysis”

Ina D. Amarillo, PhD, FACMG, ErCLG
Director, Cytogenomics and Molecular Genomics Lab
Associate Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Penn State Health
Hershey, PA

In this session, the speaker will explore the enduring relevance of conventional karyotype analysis alongside advancements in genome sequencing. She will delve into how karyotyping complements modern sequencing technologies, offering unique and comprehensive insights into patient diagnostics, prognostics, and management.

Session #19

Session Code: _____

“Case Studies in Pediatric Microbiology”

Kenneth P. (K.P.) Smith, PhD, D(ABMM)
Assistant Director, Infectious Disease Diagnostics Laboratory
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

The case studies will be those illustrative of common and less common etiologies of pediatric infections with a focus on medically complex patients. For each case, a differential diagnosis will be built based on the patient’s clinical presentation and steps in the microbiologic workup will be discussed. Special attention will be paid to the laboratory decision-making process of reporting pathogens and interpreting susceptibility testing results.

Session #20

Session Code: _____

“Cold Storage Platelets: Modern Applications of a Previously Forgotten Product”

Devon D. Mahoney, MD
Fellow, Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine
Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Hershey, PA

This session will include an introduction to the topic of platelets stored at 1-6°C. The speaker will discuss the reasons why cold storage platelets initially fell out of favor and why they now have returned to popularity. There will be a comparison of hemostatic properties and what is known about in vivo functionality of room temperature vs cold storage platelets. The speaker will also cover FDA guidance regarding the manufacture and storage of platelets at cold temperatures and future directions for the product.

**Sharon Strauss
8 Lakeview Court
Sinking Spring, PA 19608**

Join ASCLS!

For more information about ASCLS, go to www.ascls.org

ASCLS Mission:

The mission of ASCLS is to make a positive impact in healthcare through leadership that will assure excellence in the practice of laboratory medicine.

ASCLS Believes:

- Quality laboratory service is essential to quality healthcare.
- Everyone deserves access to safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient-centered healthcare, and
- Advancing the laboratory profession advances healthcare.