



The Pennsylvania Newsletter

Official Publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Pennsylvania
"Your Professional Organization for over Seventy Years"

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Message from the President Not On Our Watch

Michael Osborne
ASCLS-PA President

Go ahead join a lab group- *I dare you!* I want you to join OUR Lab group ASCLS-PA but more important I want you to **join any lab group** -AACC, ASM, CLMA, ASCP. And why is that - because it enhances our position in the medical and political worlds. The stronger we are as lab groups, the more secure our place at the healthcare table becomes. I promise to do all within my power to make sure ASCLS – PA stays a relevant vibrant organization to benefit you to increase your earnings and professional standing. While other lab, social and professional organized groups may be shrinking, we plan to expand. Not on our watch will we retreat. Go ahead and visit www.ascls.org to join or renew. *I dare you!* I promise we will VALUE YOU AS A MEMBER.

I call on each member of ASCLS-PA to get one lab colleague to join as a member. Since August 2014, forty three (43) new members from across Pennsylvania have joined our group. I hope many of you will consider attending our annual statewide education meeting in Harrisburg in May, 2015 and/or the National ASCLS Meeting in Atlanta, GA July 28-August 1, 2015

We, as laboratorians, bring incredible value to diagnostic and prognostic medical decision making in hospitals and physicians offices. We are truly an integral part of high quality comprehensive patient care and safety. As the medical world moves from volume to value, our role will become increasingly important in spending health care dollars more appropriately by helping to suggest the right test at the right time (appropriate utilization). We are the lab experts. Together, we are the voice and the vision of the laboratory's future. Recent legislation in Washington, DC signed by the President, The Workforce Investment

Act, may allow for the establishment of more new MLS programs. We need to continue to blow our own horn.

Do you know some of our **beliefs and core values**:

Quality laboratory service provided by competent professionals is the foundation to quality laboratory medicine and healthcare. As we advance so does health care.

Ensuring appropriate and cost effective laboratory services is a component of quality so that practitioners can maintain competency and contributes to cost effective health care. Promoting diversity and taking leadership roles in standard and policy setting is our core professional responsibility.

In closing I propose to you that joining ASCLS will bring you untold professional and personal rewards. By providing Continuing Education (P.A.C.E®) opportunities and local and statewide meetings, we attempt to add value to our profession and careers. As part of our upcoming annual meeting in Harrisburg May 4-6, 2015, we will have a great opportunity to network with other laboratory professionals throughout the Keystone State. We see this annual meeting, among other things, as a way for you to reunite with ladies and gentleman with whom you trained with years ago from the various schools around the Commonwealth. Please watch for more information on this initiative

I am here for SERVICE. If I can help in any way please contact me on my cell at 267-273-6415 or email michael.r.osborne@questdiagnostics.com. Thank you for being part of our group.

**The Pennsylvania Newsletter is the official publication of
The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science – Pennsylvania**

President: Michael Osborne President-Elect: Jean Buchenhorst Past President: Laurie Taraborrelli
Editor: Scott Aikey Editorial Staff: The ASCLS-PA Board of Directors
Website: www.ascls-pa.org



Spring Meeting News

Mary Beth Miele

ASCLS-PA Annual Meeting Program Chair

Announcing the 80th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State Society of American Medical Technologists to be held at the **Holiday Inn, Harrisburg East**, located at 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA. The meeting dates are Tuesday, May 5 and Wednesday, May 6, 2015. On the evening of May 5 attendees are invited to an Awards banquet for only \$40. Discounted lodging rates (\$111/night) are available by calling 717-939-7841 and indicating that you are attending the "American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science-PA" meeting. The ASCLS-PA Board and House of Delegates meetings will be held on Monday, May 4th at 6PM. In addition, the PASSAMT Business meeting will be on Wednesday, May 6 with a time to be announced.

This 2015 program has more than 30 hours of PACE approved continuing education credits planned over the two day meeting. Three meeting rooms will be used each day. Chemistry, hematology, coagulation and a variety of general topics will be presented both days. On Tuesday, a microbiology track will be offered and on Wednesday a transfusion medicine track is planned. The program has been designed to meet BOC Certification Maintenance Program requirements, and to provide a broad range of topics related to clinical chemistry, microbiology, molecular diagnostics, genomics, forensics, hematology, stem cell therapy, emerging infectious diseases, transfusion medicine, patient safety, phlebotomy, as well as laboratory management, test utilization, and educational and career opportunities. Vendor exhibits

will be part of the meeting. If interested in exhibiting, please contact Mike Osborne, ASCLS-PA President.

ASCLS-PA and PASSAMT are pleased to offer special registration rates to members. Daily rates are as follows: Regular member rate - \$95; Non-member rate - \$130; Student member rate - \$25; and Student non-member \$40. **Continental Breakfast and Buffet Lunch are included in your daily registration.** (And as mentioned above, you are invited to attend the Awards banquet on Tuesday night at a nominal charge of \$40 per person.) Registration for the meeting can be paid by check or **Mastercard, Visa or Discover.**

For more information about the annual meeting, please check our web site, "www.ascls-pa.org". If you would like to serve as a moderator at the meeting, please contact Mary Beth Miele at mmiele@hmc.psu.edu. We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting where you can enjoy outstanding continuing education and take advantage of networking opportunities with colleagues in Pennsylvania and neighboring states.

2015 Annual Meeting Planning Committee

General Chair: Scott Aikey

Program Chair: Mary Beth Miele

Vendor Chair: Michael Osborne

Registration Chair: Sharon Strauss

PACE Coordinator: Katie Franz

PSSAMT contact: Deb Smeal



A Call for ASCLS-PA Awards Submission

Mary M. Gourley

ASCLS-PA Bylaws Chair

Nominations are now being accepted for the following awards to be presented at the Annual Meeting in May 2015.

Dolbey Award – Member of the Year

Estolle Grosse Award

Corporate Award

Lifetime Achievement Award

Each nomination is to be accompanied by a short essay by the nominator explaining the reason as to why the nominee is deserving of the award.

The president and the Board of Directors are responsible for nominations for the Key to the Future Award. The president is responsible for submitting names for the Omicron Sigma Award to both ASCLS and to the state

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EDUCATION CORNER

A Focus on Philadelphia MLT/MLS Programs

Jean Buchenhorst

ASCLS-PA President-Elect

Below is an update on some changes occurring in the Philadelphia MLT/MLS programs. At the Community College of Philadelphia Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program there is a large first year class of 23 students! The second year class has fourteen students. CCP is using a new affiliate to help train students, Accu Reference Labs on Broad Street—thank you for helping to educate students in the Philadelphia area! For the MLT program at CCP, the biggest issue the program director has is finding enough sites for student microbiology rotations. Please contact Robin Krefetz if you have any suggestions to help her establish a student microbiology rotation.

At St. Christopher's Hospital for Children the Medical Laboratory Science program is going strong with many applicants for the Class of 2016, including a PhD level applicant, for the eight seats in their upcoming class. Changes to the program this year include incorporation of a management and histology rotation. The students at St. Christopher's do the majority of their rotations at St. Christopher's Hospital, but also complete rotations at Hahnemann University Hospital.

Thomas Jefferson University has a new interim program director, Jennifer Slodysko. Over the past couple years the program at Jefferson has grown significantly; this fall Jefferson has 36 incoming students! Seventeen of the incoming students are enrolled in the Bachelor's degree level in Medical Laboratory Science and 19 are enrolled in the Master's degree program for Medical

Laboratory Science. Jefferson has 28 clinical affiliates—thank you to all those educating the next generation of lab professionals!

At Pennsylvania Hospital's School for Medical Laboratory Science the program has grown by one student for the Class of 2015 to a class of nine students! This could not have happened without the addition of our new affiliate Presbyterian Medical Center. Pennsylvania Hospital now has two clinical affiliates; the MLS program has been affiliated with the Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania and this affiliation allowed the program to grow from six to eight students five years ago.

All of the MLS programs have many college affiliates, but the only college affiliate within Philadelphia is the University of the Sciences. The major change for the program there is a move from the Samson College of Health Sciences within the University to their former home in the Biology Department in the Misher College Division. This move works well with the fact that at least half of USciences MLS majors are dual Biology-MLS majors.

If other program directors from Pennsylvania would like to send me a short update about changes in their programs, I can continue the Education Corner highlighting different programs throughout the state. Please send an update to Jean.Buchenhorst@uphs.upenn.edu. Thank you to all those involved in educating students throughout the state!



A Students Perspective

Ryan Stetz

ASCLS-PA Student Representative

My name is Ryan Stetz, and I am the present ASCLS-PA Student Representative. I am currently attending Pennsylvania Hospital's School of Medical Laboratory Science, and I am very fortunate to be part of such an outstanding health care system at Penn Medicine. Prior to entering into the program, I was a Biology Instructor at Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. Teaching was an incredibly rewarding experience and will always be part of my life, however, I also had the desire to practice "hands on" science. As a

Medical Laboratory Scientist, I will get the opportunity to be on the front lines of biomedical research and use the most advanced medical diagnostics to improve patient lives.

I began Pennsylvania Hospital's MLS program in late August, and time is certainly flying by. I have completed rotations in Blood Bank, HLA typing, Chemistry, and Endocrinology. In the past three months I have acquired a great amount of knowledge and I am eager to learn

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Head for the Hill: Legislative Day 2015

Stephanie Noblit

New Professional Representative

Working in a field that is mostly behind the scenes has its pros and cons. For many of us, it provides an environment in which we can do our best work. On the flip side, however, being in a field that is mostly behind the scenes means that people on the outside rarely understand what we do or that we even exist at all. We've all experienced a call from a doctor or nurse asking us why they don't have their results yet, but even more upsetting than other healthcare professionals not realizing that our job is much more than pushing buttons, is the fact that people outside of healthcare have very little to no knowledge about medical laboratory science. The dreaded question, "so what do you do for a living," always ends up being a ten minute explanation on how you're not a nurse or an x-ray tech or any other miscellaneous hospital employee. Some people really can't grapple with the idea that their tubes of blood actually go somewhere; that there are people working around the clock to process these samples and making sure that patients are healthy and getting accurate results. While these issues are partially due to TV medical dramas in which the clinical lab does not exist, the main reason these issues exist is because of us.

Yes, I said it. We are the problem, but we can also be the solution. So what does it matter, you say? So what if people don't know what we do or how important our work is? It's not like people knowing we are working hard in subbasements or isolated back corners of hospitals is going to affect our job, right? Wrong. I used to think that people's lack of understanding of the clinical lab was just an annoying inconvenience, until I learned about how intertwined the clinical lab and politics are. Did you know that politicians in Washington determine how much

hospitals get reimbursed for each lab test they perform, which in turn influences how much money the lab makes and is able to use to purchase new instruments or hire more staff? Did you know that politicians influence how many medical laboratory science programs there are and how many new people enter the profession? So how can people that know little to nothing about what we do make informed decisions about our profession? The answer is that they can't and that's where we come in.

Every year in March, the ASCLS hosts its Legislative Symposium. The Legislative Symposium is a two day event held in Washington, DC and its purpose is to get medical laboratory science professionals on Capitol Hill to lobby for our profession. The first day is spent in a daylong workshop where you are taught what the issues are and how to lobby. On the second day, you get to head to Capitol Hill where you get to put those lobbying skills to the test during appointments with your senators and representatives. Because the Legislative Symposium is so important, **ASCLS-PA has decided to pay the registration fee to attend the symposium for the first 8 people agreeing to attend.** This year the Legislative Symposium is March 16-17, 2015. Registration for the event opens in December. The registration fee is \$205 until February 15 and \$260 after that. Accommodations are being held at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town in Alexandria, VA and ASCLS usually offers attendees a discount on room reservations. Please consider attending and help us educate our Pennsylvania Congressmen. If you are interested please send an email to snoblitms@gmail.com by February 1, 2015. This is a great opportunity, so don't miss out!

A Students Perspective

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even more throughout my 11 month clinical. I recently attended the American Association of Blood Banks' annual meeting at the Philadelphia Convention Center. It was a great experience as I attended several very interesting lectures covering topics from using platelets to encourage cartilage growth in orthopedic patients to surveys on blood borne pathogens such as *Babesia* and *Plasmodium*. There were also many cellular therapy vendors present, and the array of cutting edge

instruments and analyzers was amazing.

I am looking forward to beginning my career as a Medical Laboratory Scientist. The field of Medical Laboratory Science offers a variety of opportunities. Whether it be the hospital laboratory, research institute, pharmaceutical industry, government agency or academia, there are numerous areas for Medical Laboratory Scientists to find their niche.



Motions from the Most Recent ASCLS-PA Board Meeting – October 18, 2014

William Hunt
ASCLS-PA Secretary

MOTION #1: Moved by Strauss, seconded by Miele that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors approve the minutes of the ASCLS-PA Board Meeting dated 5/5/14 as presented. Motion Passed

Motion #2: Moved by Miele, seconded by Strauss that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors accept the Treasurer’s report for year end dated 8/31/14 for the Operating Funds and file for audit. Motion Passed.

Motion #3: Moved by Strauss, seconded by Buchenhorst that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors accept the Treasurer’s report for year end dated 8/31/14 for the Scholarship Funds and file for audit. Motion Passed.

Motion #4: Moved by Buchenhorst, seconded by Strauss that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors move \$12,000 from the remaining general use funds from FY14 to the FY16 Reserve Fund and \$3508.76 to the Contingency Fund. Motion Passed

Motion #5: Moved by Stetz, seconded by Strauss that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors accept the minor modifications to the FY15 budget as presented. Motion Passed

Motion #6: Moved by Miele, seconded by Buchenhorst that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors accept the Treasurer’s report for year end dated 9/30/14 for the Operating Funds and file for audit. Motion Passed.

Motion #7: Moved by Miele, seconded by Buchenhorst that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors accept the Treasurer’s report for year end dated 9/30/14 for the Scholarship Funds and file for audit. Motion Passed.

Motion #8: Moved by Strauss, seconded by Buchenhorst that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors move the \$1,120.85 Lehigh Valley Donation to the Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Fund. Motion Passed.

Motion #9: Moved by Stetz, seconded by Buchenhorst that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors approve the reinvestment of \$15,000 into a CD. Motion Passed.

Motion #10: Moved by Stetz, seconded by Buchenhorst that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors approve the changes to the ASCLS-PA Bylaws and SOPs as presented and corrected and refer those changes to ASCLS for review. Motion Passed.

ASCLS-PA Awards Submission

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Awards Chair by the deadlines.

Deadline for receipt of nomination forms is April 1, 2015. Please submit a completed nominations form electronically to Mary Gourley at m.gourley@verizon.net by the deadline.

The General Awards Nomination Form can be found on the ASCLS-PA website at the following URL: <http://www.ascls-pa.org/awards.html> Please contact President Michael Osborne, Scott Aikey, or Mary Gourley if you have any questions. All nominations are welcome and anyone can nominate.

Let’s have a banner year for awards next year.

NEED A SCHOLARSHIP?

Did you know that ASCLS-PA offers a graduate and an undergraduate Scholarship every year, but most years no one applies for them?

**Edward P. Dolbey Scholarship
ASCLS-PA Undergraduate Scholarship**

The deadline for both scholarships is
February 15, 2015.

Check out the ASCLS-PA website for more details and for the application

<http://www.ascls-pa.org/scholarships.html>



The ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting and Expo will be held on May 5-6, 2015 at the Holiday Inn East in Harrisburg, PA

Two full days of educational sessions as well as Vendor tables are planned.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

The full program will be mailed as well as posted on the website in the Spring.



Yes You Can, or, If I Can Do It, So Can You!

Katie Franz
ASCLS-PA Board Member

When I started attending ASCLS meetings, I always found myself drawn to the member poster and paper presentations. I admired the presenters and the wide range of topics of interest. I never imagined that one day I would be one of those presenters.

Last August, I was sitting in the ballroom of the Chicago Marriot during the ASCLS Annual Meeting Member Awards Ceremony. I was enjoying celebrating the accomplishments of my fellow ASCLS members. The last thing on my mind was hearing my name called. I would like to share my journey with you to encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to share your ideas with our laboratory community.

My journey to this point began with an idea. Mine was to share a program developed at my workplace in which I had a major role in its creation. The main focus of the program was to make our hospital's patient safety initiative relevant to an area of the hospital that was not involved in direct patient care. What better place to share this information than among my peers and colleagues at the ASCLS Annual meeting. My first step was getting support from our lab's leadership. A stipulation for presenting at the meeting is that you must be in attendance. I knew that I would need both financial and mentorship support in order to begin my journey. My supervisor agreed to act as both a mentor and co-author for the presentation.

My first decision was to select either an oral or a poster presentation. In the past I had opportunities do both kinds of presentations at a local level, but I felt that a poster would be the best way to share the information. After consulting the ASCLS website, I began the process of writing and submitting an abstract. There are many online resources for writing an abstract both on the ASCLS and many other websites. In addition, I received mentorship and support from my supervisor and director. Once I made my submission it was a bit difficult waiting for the reply. When I received it the news I received was not totally favorable, but was encouraging. I was informed that my abstract needed some work before it would be accepted. The abstract reviewer offered some very good suggestions for approving my abstract. I consulted with my mentor, and with some tweaking, it was accepted.

The next step was creating the poster. Again, there are many online resources as well as the ever important mentor. The biggest challenge was realizing that I could not put everything I wanted to say on the poster. This process involved deciding what the main focus of the presentation was to be. I also had to make sure that all the format was such that the information was presented

in a clear concise fashion. This insured that the poster was informative and readable.

Getting your poster printed and to the meeting is the responsibility of the author. There are many avenues for getting this done. Some institutions offer the printing services and there are online companies which offer this service as well. There is some cost involved, so make sure you have the resources to handle this expense.

Once you get to the meeting there will be a labeled section in the exhibit hall for you to put your poster. Thumbtacks are provided, but my mentor brought some extra-long push pins which proved to work the best. Once your poster is up, there is a dedicated time in which the poster authors are required to be present at their posters to answer questions. If you choose to be part of the poster competition, this is also when your poster will be peer reviewed.

My mentor was present, but she let me be the primary person to answer questions and talk about the poster. Nerves took over at the beginning of the day and I stumbled through my first couple of discussions with interested people. But by the time my reviewers came around it felt like second nature. It also didn't hurt that the reviewers were very nice and supportive. Then it was over. It was a bit of a letdown, but I very proud of the work and pleased to be able to show it to my fellow laboratorians.

Back at the awards ceremony, even though it was the last thing on my mind, there I was accepting the Poster Presentation Award in the Professional Category. I can't tell you how gratifying it feels to be acknowledged by your peers. This is only one of the many benefits of being a member of ASCLS.

So what about you? Do you have an idea you would like to share? Are you doing any kind of research in your lab or do you have an interesting case study? I strongly encourage you to visit the ASCLS website and look under the Annual Meeting tab to see the guidelines for submission. The deadline for presenting in Atlanta is April 1, 2015. As I said, if I can do it, so can you!

I would like to thank my mentor and co-author Deborah Blecker-Shelly, MS, MT SM (ASCP)^{CM}, Supervisor of the Clinical Microbiology Lab for her guidance and support. I also would like to thank Kaede Ota, MD, the Director of Clinical Microbiology Lab as well as the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and the staff of the Clinical Microbiology Lab.



Mary Gourley: A Truly Dedicated Member

Barbara Snyderman

ASCLS President-Elect and Three-Time ASCLS-PA President

Forty-nine years and counting! No, not Mary's age—it is her number of years of membership! Mary joined ASCLS, which was ASMT at the time, in 1965. When asked why she joined, she said she saw an ad in a journal after she began working as a technologist and decided membership was something that would be worthwhile.

Mary has made her membership work for her! She said that the information from sessions and meetings she attended helped her advance in her career from a bench technologist to supervisor to manager. As she interviewed for new positions, she was perceived as someone who was interested in the profession, continuing education and service to the profession. The networking from attending meetings has also helped with her career.

Speaking of attending meetings, her very first national meeting was in 1969 in Philadelphia. She attended a few national meetings before taking some time off from travel to raise her daughter. She has attended every meeting since 1977 in Atlanta! Mary will celebrate her 50th year of membership when the annual meeting is back in Atlanta next July.

Committees, state presidencies, regional and national positions in ASCLS have highlighted Mary's contributions to the Society. There are too many to list in this article, but Mary's service has been recognized through the ASCLS-PA Dolbey Member of the Year Award, the Estolle Gross Scrimshaw Award, the ASCLS Omicron Sigma and ASCLS-PA Pi-Alpha awards to name just a few of her Society honors.



Mary has spent the majority of her career working in blood bank related jobs. She has worked as a bench technologist, as a technical representative for a distributor, in doctors' offices, hospitals, the Veteran's Administration Hospital, and the American Red Cross. She credits keeping up with current practices as well as attending sessions on subjects other than blood bank for her successful career. She is now retired.

Mary believes that young Medical Laboratory Scientists should join ASCLS if they want to be viewed as professionals. It is an organization that lets them have a voice in the organization and not just membership without input. As ASCLS members, we "help direct the organization and the profession and that is very important".

When asked why she chose the field, Mary said her 8th grade science teacher showed many career movies and she saw one featuring the laboratory. From that point, Mary wanted to be a Medical

Technologist. This is more proof that our members and educators must start speaking to students very early about the opportunities in a laboratory related career.

Concerned about the future of the profession, Mary said the profession is not getting the attention it should so that students are aware of a career in the laboratory. "We aren't recruiting enough—I may have to go in a wheelchair or with a walker up to the lab and do my own lab work!"

Coming Events

Board of Directors Meeting: February 7, 2015 (Philadelphia area)

Board of Directors Meeting and House of Delegates: May 4, 2015 (Harrisburg area)

ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting and Expo: May 5-6, 2015 (Harrisburg area)

Annual Student Review Session: June, 2015 (Location tbd)

All members of ASCLS-PA are welcome and encouraged to attend any meeting of the Board of Directors

To get involved, simply email Michael Osborne at Michael.R.Osborne@questdiagnostics.com



The Pennsylvania Newsletter
8 Lakeview Court
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

FOLLOW US ON



ASCLS Pennsylvania

Moving? Remember you can update all your membership information online at www.ascls-pa.org

**Or send your attached label and your corrected address to:
ASCLS-PA
8 Lakeview Court
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
to insure uninterrupted service**



Changes Are Coming to the ASCLS-PA Bylaws

Mary M. Gourley
ASCLS-PA Bylaws Chair

A task force has completed the task of updating the Pennsylvania Bylaws. The Board of Directors has reviewed and approved the changes. The revised Bylaws document has been submitted to the ASCLS Bylaw Committee for approval.

The process for amending these documents is as follows:

1. Changes are submitted to the Bylaws committee which will put the changes into amendments. COMPLETED
2. The amendments are submitted to the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors for review and approval. COMPLETED
3. The Bylaws Committee has submitted the amendments to the ASCLS Bylaws Committee for review to verify compliance with the ASCLS Bylaws

and SOP's. COMPLETED

4. Approval by the ASCLS Bylaws Committee. PENDING
5. Approved amendments to be published in the ASCLS-PA Newsletter or sent as separate document to Pennsylvania membership at least 30 days prior to vote. PENDING
6. Approval by members attending the Annual ASCLS-PA House of Delegates in May 2015. PENDING
7. If approved by 2/3 of the voting members, the amended Bylaws will be sent to the ASCLS National office and Bylaws Committee. PENDING

I want to thank the member of the Task Force and the Board of Directors for their hard work on this monumental task.