



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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Summer 2023



Message from the President

Stephanie Noblit
ASCLS-PA President

If you have renewed your membership, we thank you! If you have not, this may be your last issue. Go to www.ascls.org and renew your membership today!

Season of Togetherness

Spring and summer are busy times for ASCLS members. During the spring, many ASCLS constituent societies, including ASCLS-PA, hold their annual spring meetings. This spring we had a wonderful meeting in Harrisburg. The meeting featured various vendors and educational sessions on in demand topics. While state spring meetings tend not to be as flashy as large, national meetings, they still take months to put together. Crafting a program, soliciting vendors, and ensuring there will be proper AV equipment in the meeting rooms takes a lot of behind-the-scenes work. However, at the end of the day the time and energy spent planning a spring meeting is worth it. Spring meetings allow us to come together as a state and learn from each other. I personally love attending ASCLS-PA's spring meeting because it allows me to reconnect with former classmates, clinical instructors, and co-workers. Sharing space with these people brings me "back to my roots" and reminds me of the role that ASCLS-PA, as a grassroots organization, has played in my life and career.

While Pennsylvania is far from being the biggest state, it is still relatively large. Densely populated cities are scattered throughout the commonwealth, with Philadelphia on one side, Pittsburgh on the other, and Harrisburg in the middle, with cities like Allentown, Reading, Erie, Scranton, and others speckled about. Logistically,

it's hard to plan a state meeting that is accessible to everyone regardless of their location in the state. Unfortunately, geography is one factor in planning a meeting that is difficult to overcome. I hope, however, that we, as a grassroots society, continue to do the best we can to allow all ASCLS-PA members to feel at home at a state meeting.

As spring turns into summer, ASCLS members from around the country prepare to attend the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM). This year the meeting was held in Providence, Rhode Island and it was my first in person JAM since 2018. At JAM I reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. I learn from my mentors and help give back by mentoring others. JAM can be overwhelming, but seeing so many laboratory professionals in one place at one time is amazing. Attending a state meeting takes me back to my roots, but attending JAM pushes me toward the future. It is at JAM that we come together as a profession and ask ourselves what do we want for us as a professional society and for our patients. JAM reminds us that we are all in this together.

There is no better way to experience the value of being in a professional society than by attending a state or national meeting. These experiences, however, can be expensive and it may be difficult to get time off from work. Scholarships and/or travel grants may be available to you on the state or national level to help cover

continued on next page

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some of the costs associated with attending a meeting. Additionally, JAM offers virtual registration so that you can soak up all the educational sessions without ever leaving your house. Part of what makes attending meetings so special is the diversity of people and ideas, and

that is only possible if the meeting is accessible to as many people as possible.

I hope to see you at a state or national meeting in the future.



ASCLS-PA Clinical Laboratory Educators Forum Meeting

Marianne Downes

ASCLS-PA Membership Chair

On June second, educators across Pennsylvania gathered at the Yocum library in person and virtually at the Reading Area Community College to discuss shared concerns and needs in the education of medical laboratory professionals. This year we were able to be joined by representatives from WellSpan, Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences, Harcum college, Reading Hospital, Jefferson University, Pennsylvania Hospital, Reading Area Community College, Millersville University, Shippensburg, PA Department of Public Health, Community College of Allegheny County, Harrisburg Area Community College, Penn State Health, Penn State Hazleton, Guthrie Robert Packer, St. Francis University, St. Joseph's University, and Geisinger Medical Laboratories. Through these programs we have 135 MLT and MLS professionals entering the workforce this year from these programs. Several programs are expanding and approximately 158 students are entering their final year of training. We are aware of at least 92 interested students in the pipeline to be added to the workforce in the next 2-4 years.

Representatives from these programs shared updates, trends, and struggles they have been having over the past year. Several programs reported an increase in the number of students who already have a B.S. degree and already working in hospitals applying to accredited training programs. There is also an increase in students who are receiving tuition and stipend funding from employers. A shared concern is a decrease in the number of applicants despite hospital and community college programs have sufficient applicants to fill all available seats in their programs. Several programs have increased their recruitment efforts during the past years, especially in reaching out to high school students and promoting medical laboratory professions and pathways to pre-college students.

Melody Botterbusch MLS, SC(ASCP)CM and John

Eisenhower MLS(ASCP)CM presented on their recruitment tips. The basics considerations before attending an event is to understand the target audience, how much time you will have with them, what is the scope of what you can do with them. Can you do hands on activities with non-biohazardous mock specimens, or are you more limited? Can you do interactive activities such as case studies and games? Some of the successes included making connections at high school college fairs with science classes and clubs for opportunities to do hands-on activities with students who are already interested in medical and science careers. For hospital-based programs, making and expanding connections with affiliate college and universities to meet with prospective students and outreach to entering college students who are either undecided or may decide to change majors after learning about the field and path. Engaging current program students in the recruitment efforts aids in making the program interesting and allowing potential applicants to see themselves being successful. They also shared helpful resources to those participating in recruitment efforts.

Christina Scott MSHA, MLS, SH(ASCP)CM presented adopting the professional title Medical Laboratory Scientist. It is believed that the title adoption by employer human resources, the bureau of labor and statistics, and educational programs will aid in clarifying pathways and opportunities. The presentation slides are available on ASCLS as prepared by Linda Smith and Kathy Doig. The presentation coincides with the principles in the ASCLS position paper, Standardizing the Professional Title of Medical Laboratory Professionals. Some new information presented was the delineation between professional title as medical laboratory scientists (MLS) and professionals who are certified as medical laboratory scientists (cMLS) regardless of the certification agency.

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The title of MLT would remain the same.

Stephanie Noblit Esq. MLS(ASCP)CM presented on "Preventing the next Theranos" highlighting the ethical issues encountered in laboratory analytics utilizing the Theranos case study as well as other recent cases of dangerous and unethical behavior. A key to this is to appropriately educate individuals on ethical and unethical behavior as well as gray areas which could lead to unethical, dangerous, and illegal behavior. Another key to avoiding massive ethical breakdowns is to create a culture in which individuals are safe to report concerns

and mistakes. The presentation was followed by a discussion of how programs are currently including or highlighting ethics in their educational programs. These ideas ranged from introducing the code of ethics for laboratory professionals early in the program to requiring students to connect mistakes to processes which led to the ability to make mistakes and corrections.

If you would like to be included in the mailing list for education specific ASCLS-PA communications, please contact Melody Botterbusch at WellSpan.

CASE STUDY

Identification of an Unsuspected Salmonella Species in a Wound Culture*

Submitted by Diane Valentin MS, MLS(ASCP)MB

A 66 year old man who has had housing insecurity for several years presents to the emergency room with a festering wound on his left calf that will not heal. The wound was cleansed and a sample was taken with a transport swab. The swab was sent to the in-house lab treated as usual for a wound culture: Gram stain, Blood Agar (BAP), Macconkey (MAC), and Chocolate (CHOC) plates. Anaerobic cultures were also ordered and the swab plated to Anaerobic BAP (AnBAP).

While in the emergency room, the patient admits to eating food that has been discarded which has resulted in occasional gastroenteritis.

The primary Gram stain results are the following: 3+ PMNs, 3+ GNRs, 1+ GPR.

A Bacteroides Bile Esculin (BBE), Phenylethyl Alcohol (PEA) and Colistin Nalidixic Acid (CNA) agars were added reflexively after the Gram stain showed 3+ GNRs.

24 hours growth of aerobic plates:

- BAP: Isolate #1: rare small white colonies; Isolate #2: 3+ medium-sized, complete, gray colonies. No other characteristics were noted.
- MAC: 3+ lactose negative colonies. No other characteristics were noted.
- CHOC: reflects the BAP
- CNA: rare small white colonies

48 hours growth of anaerobic plates:

- AnBAP: Isolate #1: rare small white colonies; Isolate

#2: 1+ medium-sized, complete, gray colonies

- BBE: no growth
- PEA: rare small white colonies

The isolates found on the AnBAP and PEA were subcultured aerobically to BAP and found to be the same as the colonies on the aerobic BAP and CNA plates.

Isolate #1: Gram results: Gram positive palisading rods. Biochemical testing resulted in catalase positive. No further testing was performed. Isolate #1 was identified as Corynebacterium species. (Contaminant)

Isolate #2: Medium-sized gray isolate was run against the usual enteric biochemical panel. See Table 1 for partial results.

Table 1¹: Enteric biochemical panel partial results for Isolate #2

Biochemical	Result
KIA	Alkaline/Acid, H ₂ S Positive, Gas Negative
Indole	Negative
Motility	Positive
Nitrate Reductase	Positive
Urease	Negative
LIA	Purple/Purple, H ₂ S+
VP	Negative

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Isolate #2 biochemical testing results in presumptive identification for Salmonella enterica. A BioRad Salmonella serotyping assay² is performed. See Table 2 for results.

Table 2: BioRad Salmonella serotyping assay results

Testing Reagents	Result
Auto-agglutination	Negative
OMNI-O antisera	Positive
Polyvalent O antisera	OMA positive
Monovalent O Antigen(s)	1, 9, 12 are positive
Polyvalent H antisera	HG positive
Phase 1 Monovalent H Antigen(s)	g, m
Phase 2 Monovalent H Antigen(s)	1, 7

Isolate #2 was identified as Salmonella enterica serovar Enteritidis (Pathogen).

Sources:

1. Microbiology Info.com, 2023. <https://microbiology-info.com/biochemical-test-and-identification-of-salmonella-typhi/>. Accessed July 11, 2023
2. Bacterial Serotyping Guide for Salmonella. https://www.bio-rad.com/webroot/web/pdf/fsd/literature/FSD_14-0699.pdf. Accessed July 11, 2023
3. National Enteric Disease Surveillance: Salmonella Surveillance Overview, July 2011, https://www.cdc.gov/nationalsurveillance/pdfs/nationalsalmsurveill-overview_508.pdf. Accessed July 11, 2023.

**This case has been taken from my work experience at the Corporal Michael J. Crescenzo Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA. The age of the patient and organism identified has been altered.*

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science—PA 2023 Spring Meeting Minutes

Red Lion Hotel- Harrisburg, PA

Date: Sunday, May 7th, 2023 at 3:00pm

2022-2023 State Leadership Board Officers

- Stephanie Noblit (President)
- Barbara Sniderman (President Elect, Leadership Development)
- Travis Bicher (Past President)
- Grace Renn (Treasurer)
- Diane Valentin (Secretary)
- Gabriel Peterson (Board Member 2021-2024)
- Jonathan Meyer (Board Member 2020-2023)
- Heather Harrington (Board Member 2022-2023)
- Dana Staranowski (Ascending Professional)
- Catharine Wingle (Developing Professional)
- Committee Chairs
- Stephanie Noblit (Government Affairs, Social Media)
- Scott Aikey (Finance, Parliamentarian)

- Mary Gourley (Awards, ByLaws)
- Melody Botterbusch (Clinical Laboratory Educators Forum Co-Chair)
- Christina Scott (Clinical Laboratory Educators Forum Co-Chair)
- Marianne Downes (Membership Development)
- Sharon Strauss (Webmaster)
- Jean Buchenhorst (Career Recruitment, Spring Meeting)
- Katie Fraz (PACE Administrator)

Vacancies: PAC Chair

Attendance:

- Stephanie Noblit (President) SN
- Barbara Sniderman (President Elect, 47th consecutive ASCLS-PA Board Meeting) BS
- Travis Bicher (Past President) TB
- Grace Renn (Treasurer) GR

continued on next page

Diane Valentin (Secretary) DV
Jonathan Meyer
(Board Member, Newsletter Editor) JM
Mary Gourley (Awards Chair, ByLaws Chair) MG
Melody Boederbush
(Clinical Lab Educator Forum Co-Chair) MB
Christina Scott
(Clinical Lab Educator Forum Co-Chair) CS
Maryanne Downes
(Membership Development) MD
Sharon Strauss (Web Master) SS
Jean Buchenhourst
(Spring Meeting General Chair) JB
Joshua Cannon (Spring Meeting Program Chair) JC
Katie Franz (PACE Coordinator) KF
Staphanie Janiec (ASCLS-PA Delaware
Valley Chapter President) JS
Mary Beth Miele (Guest member) MBM
Ethan Kentzel (Guest member) EK
Lena Arzoumanian (ASCLS-NJ Guest member) LA

Board of Directors Meeting

1. Board meeting called to order by President Noblit at 3:00 pm.
2. Roll call and quorum (chair + 5) has been established by the President
3. **Motion 1:**
 - a. BS moved to approve the minutes from 2023 ASCLS-PA Winter Board meeting as edited
 - b. TB Seconded
 - c. Motion carried
4. Budget
 - a. GR needs to speak to Scott Aikey
5. **Motion 2:**
 - a. TB moved to adjourn the ASCLS-PA 2023 Annual Board Meeting.
 - b. BS Seconded.
 - c. Motion carried.
6. Board meeting ended 3:29pm

Annual Business Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Board meeting called to order by President Noblit 3:15 pm
 - i. All in attendance are members: all are in leadership, 3 are guests

- ii. Introductions
 - iii. 50th meeting with AMT
 - b. Short board meeting first
 - c. Annual business meeting, next
 2. Quorum established by President Noblit = President + 3 Board Members + 6 Voting Members
 3. **Motion 3:**
 - a. KF moved to approve the ASCLS-PA 2023 Annual Business Meeting Agenda
 - b. MG seconded
 - c. Motion carried
 4. President's Report
 - a. SN
 - i. Proclamations from PA Governor Shapiro
 1. Shared on Facebook and Connect Community
 - ii. Will serve as delegate at 2023 Annual House of Delegates Meeting
 5. Approval of minutes from 2022 ASCLS-PA Annual Business Meeting
 - a. BS presented minutes from 2022 Annual Business Meeting
 - b. **Motion 4:**
 - i. MG motion to approve minutes from 2022 ASCLS-PA Annual Business Meeting
 - ii. MD seconded
 - iii. Motion carries
 6. Budget/Treasurer's Report
 - a. GR presented the report
 - i. More activity during this report
 - ii. Final deadline for student review 5/28/2023
 - iii. ASCLS dues is not current on the report
 - iv. Reserve fund has been updated
 - v. Scholarship funds have not moved, only interest is reflected as an increase
 - vi. Operating funds are listed as end of Q1 and end of April
 - vii. Moved the reserve funds into general use
 - viii. Capital tab has been updated with current numbers
 - ix. Question 1: MD – Has the scholarship fund been awarded?
 1. GR: Yes
 - x. Question 2: Scholarship name & criteria?
 1. GR: Dolbey
 2. Discussion between MD, BS, MBM
 3. SN – scholarship section on the agenda
 - xi. **Motion 5:**
 1. MD moved to accept treasurer report

continued on next page

dated 5/4/2023 and file for audit

2. JM seconded
3. Motion carries

xii. **Motion 6:**

1. MG moved to accept ASCLS-PA scholarship financial report in treasurer's report as of 9/1/2022 to 3/31/2023 and file for audit
2. SS seconded
3. Motion carries

7. 2023 ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting

a. JB presented ASCLS-PA spring meeting planning & timeline

i. Acknowledge

1. SS in printing & mailing of the postcard and flier
2. TB booked vendors

ii. JC reviewed the speakers and moderators

1. Discussion of moderators needed and called for help from those in attendance
 - a. All sessions now have moderators
2. Session handouts are all digital
3. Speaker gifts
 - a. Amazon gift cards

iii. SS Registration

1. Time to arrive: 7am
2. JB and SS discussion about registration close date and # of registrants and vendors
 - a. 39 members, 10 student members, 4 AMT, 19 non-members, 3 student-non-members
 - b. 11 vendor tables, 19 people at 11 tables
3. TB discussion about tablecloth and banner

iv. TB Vendors receive gifts and raffles (15)

v. GR will take care of the honorariums and payment to hotel

vi. JB discussed budget on the report

1. Will need to discuss the final numbers with GR
2. SS needed to print out more badges
3. TB income for vendor is increased than what is reflected on the report (~\$7000)

4. JB registration numbers may also be increased in income

5. Question 3: PSSAMT contribution?

- a. SS PSSAMT did not contribute last year but did in the year before; PSSAMT has a new president
- b. MBM PSSAMT membership has dropped

vii. **Motion 7:**

1. KF moved to commend 2023 ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting Committee for the great job they did in assembling the meeting
2. BS seconded
3. Motion carried

b. Discussion about AV equipment (TB, JC, JB)

- i. JB read off the rooms and events w/ tables and chairs requested from the hotel contract

1. Projector and laptop rented for 2 rooms

8. Awards

a. MG

- i. Discussed Awards Committee report

- ii. Requested that everyone keep historical data and submit to awards chair

1. Presented blank nominee form to keep track of your own (no motion needed)

2. SN – this form would be useful

3. MD – timeline for nominations is 2/1/2024

- a. MG – depends on when the annual business meeting is, but 2/1/2024 is a better date than 3/1/2024 (if annual meeting is pushed back) due to engraved awards that need time to be created

- i. Dolbey committee is the last 5 recipients and is difficult to get in touch with them

b. Nominations can be made at any time, but a call for nominations is made in the Fall newsletter and another in January but that does not get to membership in time

c. Nomination qualifications are in the handbook

- iii. Presentations after dinner

9. Bylaws

continued on next page

Stay in Touch with us on our Website

Make sure you bookmark www.ascls-pa.org to stay in touch with us. You can find numerous updates and information on the web site about upcoming meetings. Information is also available earlier on the Pennsylvania State Society ASCLS Connect Community forum.

- a. MG - No report
- 10. Delaware Valley Chapter
 - a. SJ
 - i. Working to do a social event in Philly (Bowling)
 - ii. Seeking ideas for more social event
 - iii. Seeking more CE events (virtual is better)
- 11. Developing Professional
 - a. CW
 - i. Could not be here today – SN presented the report on her behalf
 - ii. Process of student review 6/3/2023
 - 1. Virtual
 - 2. TB will need to upgrade the zoom count to accommodate the attendee number
 - a. Zoom webinar – live only
 - i. Never recorded the student review in the past
 - 3. Price: \$10 member, each tier is \$10 more
 - a. Discussion:
 - i. MD - should be more \$ for honorariums, however its students and they don't have a lot of money to spend;
 - ii. JC - however the value of each presenter warrants the increase of \$; JC – never an event to make money, more so to support students;
 - iii. MB wishes she were offered an honorarium so she can offer it back to ASCLS-PA
 - iv. MD – there isn't enough to even offer honorariums
 - v. SN – honorarium was “missed” last year (2022) and may need to offer an honorarium
 - vi. TB – need to be proactive about honorarium instead of asking the speakers
 - vii. MD – honorarium needs to be in the handbook
 - viii. JC – why isn't the ascending professional doing the test tips? SN – ASCLS-PA does not have an ascending professional
 - ix. JB and SN: Ascending professional discussion of who would be good in this role
 - b. Line item has money for developing professional forum and JAM that can be used for the upgrade for zoom
- c. JB – upgrade would be \$300, next step up is \$1000
 - i. \$1000 has cloud access but we don't need it if there isn't being recorded
 - ii. BS - Upgrade needs to come from the student forum line item
 - iii. No motion needed since this is coming out of the student forum line item
- 12. Educators' Forum
 - a. MB and CS
 - i. Meeting June 2nd, 2023 @ RACC (hybrid)
 - ii. Topics
 - 1. Stephanie Noblit – discussion on Ethics After Theranos
 - 2. Recruiting students
 - iii. CS asked KF for help with PACE credits
 - iv. MD can help with emailing invites to ASCLS-PA membership
 - v. Connect can be accessed for invites
- 13. Government Affairs
 - a. SN – free webinar hosted by Jim Flannagan and Patrick Cooney will be talking about Gov. Affairs (118th congress and Bills) Wed May 10th, 7pm, emails have been sent, will be recorded
- 14. Membership
 - a. MD discussed report
 - i. Thanks everyone for their grace in allowing for delayed work since she has been busy with living life
 - ii. 1 “emeritus 1” member (never have to update their information until 2050)
 - iii. 10 other emeritus members
 - iv. Decline in ascending professionals
 - v. Developing professionals need to be enrolled in a program
 - vi. More people are joining as they come out of MLS programs and entering the workforce
 - vii. Correction to report: 166 current members will have their membership expire on July 31, 2022 (not 175)
 - viii. Just under 200 members currently
 - ix. Group rates (educational or lab group) does not have to be in the same college or employer (enroll with ELMC2)
 - x. MBM (PD of Penn State Hershey MC MLS Program) enrolls all graduates in her program as developing professionals as a

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group membership; discusses with national and got 1 free registration for CLEC in 2022

15. Newsletter

- a. JM discussed report
 - i. Items of concern
 - 1. Should we write the 2023 JAM article?
 - a. BS - Move the deadline out by a week until July after the holiday
 - b. BS will write JAM recap with photos
 - 2. Student Review Article – SN will write this
 - 3. DelVal bowling or other social event – SJ will supply photos and JM may write the article
 - 4. MD write the Educators Forum
 - ii. Deadline – July 10th
 - iii. Corrections to report
 - 1. Request for action section: corrected from Winter to Summer

16. PACE

- a. KF
 - i. Gave credits to DelVal meeting and this Spring Meeting
 - ii. Instructions will be at the registration table for Spring Meeting
 - iii. If speakers request evaluation, then ask KF

17. Website

- a. SS
 - i. Has been 'crazy'
 - 1. Students Review has been affected
 - a. 20 Registrations with no payment
 - b. Contacted Square – not compatible with Microsoft Edge and to try Google or Safari
 - i. This note was then made on the website
 - c. There was one more registrant after that may have been user error
 - 2. Spring Meeting was not a problem
 - a. Only one registrant mailed the registration form

Stop for Dinner – reconvene at 6:00pm

Meeting reconvenes 6:00pm

18. Scholarships

- a. SN: no specific report
- b. Issues giving out scholarships, revamping applications, problems with pricing, have not given out all of the scholarships in a few years
- c. Call for discussion
 - i. BS – applicant for Dolbey scholarship to GR

- 1. Dolbey Scholarship and Award
- ii. KF – who is the scholarship person? The treasurer but KF would be happy to go over who, among the student members, would qualify
- iii. Point out the educators in the room
- iv. JB – possible making donations tax deductible, was talking about in the past, but did not happen; BS states that Bill Hunt thought that donations would bring in more \$, but tax laws have changed and will not be feasible
 - 1. BS - Taxes not the issue. Rather the issue is the scholarship has not been given out in a while
 - 2. MD – question as to what the issue of the scholarships really is – money, applicants, or both.
 - 3. MD - Scholarship award is not enough (\$1000) is not worth to apply, tuition is much more
 - 4. MBM - Students do not want to fill out the application; better to have a set amount and advertise it up front; National scholarships are very competitive and award more \$
 - 5. BS – suggests looking at the scholarship guidelines
 - 6. KF – would any industries in PA that would be interested in sponsoring a scholarship?
 - a. BS – this is considered a donation and we need to be careful about this
 - 7. MD and MBM - Cardinal and FA Davis has student scholarships
 - 8. BS – how much is in the scholarship fund? A scholarship could be sponsored by Alpha Mu Tau with a stipulation is student is in PA
 - a. GR - ~\$22,350
 - 9. TB – use same application form for each scholarship and awards
 - 10. MD – suggested student applicants create a statement as to how they plan to pay the society back after this award has been given out
 - a. KF – solicit information from other regions, states as to how they gain nominations
 - i. SN - post this on the open forum

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11. JB – What is on the website?
Only Dolbey?
 - a. TB – others supposed to be revamped but there was no money in it; Memorial Undergrad is listed under O&A
12. JB – proposes Dolbey put back into O&A, but his would have to go back to the budget
13. JC – Honorarium wishes to put their award back into the scholarship
14. SN – after spring meeting, will email members to solicit members for the scholarship task force

19. 2023 JAM

- a. SN presentation
- b. SN is required to submit a report (any concerns to be put before the national board)
 - i. MG – increase the number of delegates?
SN – board voted it down; January mid-year national meeting did not have enough members to reach a quorum so they did not want to increase the number of delegates because if they do, then there will never be a quorum to enable a vote; MD – members may not have gotten a link to join the meeting which may have been the issue in January
 - ii. KF – why have a mid-year house of delegates? SN – to promote activity of the delegates and to do business 2x a year instead of once.
 - iii. KF – who will make up the regional board? Anyone from any state society can be on the board (no more regional director). They will be termed “directors” and not “regional directors”.
 - iv. JC – scientific assembly may be dissolved; no president/VP for heme/hemostasis; MD agreed – immunology/oncology has not met. Scientific assemblies need to be retasked/reformed and not dissolve it with more clear outcomes
 1. BS – they ceased to serve a purpose; jobs are very demanding and professional societies are not a priority; MD – there is no value in a professional society
 2. JC – scientific assembly are not made up of experts, only those who are interested in the subject, so there is not value in reaching out to

them for information when researching a paper, etc.

3. JB – what about the body of knowledge? What do you expect for your professional identify but is 5 years old when it comes out. JC – does not use the body of knowledge and sees no utility for it
4. MD – entry level curriculum is becoming reactivated; MBM is vice chair of the entry level curriculum committee – came up with 4 domains, meeting every month, meets next on 6/1; wants to be a paper of advocacy to educate the public and the c-suite.
5. MG – any information we need as delegates – it is too late when we get this information – sometimes within 1 week of the event the material is emailed for review
 - v. History – used to be 1 delegate for every 25 members
- c. Held in Providence, RI. Last week of June. Asked who is going.
- d. Selection of delegates
 - i. Allowed a delegate of president, president, developing, and ascending, and 1 at-large for every 50 non-developing professional
 1. SN - Developing professional can not attend this year in person
 2. BS - Delegates can only serve for 2 consecutive years
 3. TB - We get 3 delegates (140 members)
 4. Who is eligible: MG (alternate), MD, SS, Heather Harrington (HH)
 5. BS - Budget - \$1000 out of ASCLS Delegate Fund for MD, SS, HH
 6. BS - President & President Elect are funded out of O&A
 7. **Motion 8:**
 - a. BS moves that ASCLS-PA members present at this Annual Business Meeting approve to send MD, SS, and HH as delegates at large to the ASCLS JAM in Providence, RI; MG will serve as the alternate; GR will serve as the ascending professional and the \$1000 in the delegates fund will be split by the 3 at large delegates
 - b. Further discussion – if devel. Professional wishes to attend,

continued on next page

then there needs to be another vote via email

- c. JC seconded
- d. Motion passes
- e. Host society duties
 - i. 2024; July Pittsburg, PA; ASCLS-PA is the host society
 - ii. At 2023 JAM - General presentation by SN on looking forward to seeing you at the meeting
 - 1. HH wishes to help in any way, she is from Pittsburg
- f. E&R fund donation
 - i. BS – 3 virtual silent auctions, BS chairs, anyone can donate to the basket and bid
 - ii. **Motion 9:**
 - 1. BS moved that members of the ASCLS-PA present at this Annual Business Meeting approve \$100 to be given to the E&R fund for the silent auction items
 - 2. MG – seconded
 - 3. Discussion on what the basket should be about
 - a. Crayola, peeps, ...
 - b. BS asked members to send her ideas
 - 4. Motion passes

20. Call for nominations

- a. President Elect
 - i. MD – nominated KF (accepted)
- b. 1 Board Member 3-year term (to expire 2026)
 - i. KF – self-nominates
 - ii. MD – nominated JM (accepted)
 - iii. EK – self-nominates
 - iv. HH needs to be voted in for 2-year

(appointed in 2022 for only 1 year – did not attend 2022 annual business meeting)

- c. Treasurer
 - i. Special election for 1 year term; 2024 will be election for full term
- d. **Motion 10:**
 - i. BS - Annual business meeting close the nominations for all available positions
 - ii. CS seconded
 - iii. Motion carries
- e. **Motion 11:**
 - i. BS – vote by acclamation for:
 - 1. HH – Board (2-years)
 - 2. GR – Treasurer (2-years)
 - 3. KF – President Elect
 - 4. EK – Board (3-year term)
 - ii. CS – seconded
 - iii. Motion carries

21. New Business

- a. JC – Questions about next year’s ASCLS-PA annual meeting
 - i. BS – Possible meeting in late July
- b. MD – New Location?
 - i. JB - Saint Joseph’s University University City campus
 - 1. DV will ask event coordinator
 - ii. BS – CCP, Camden County CC
 - iii. KF – MontCoCC
 - iv. MD – Penn State Hazleton, Scranton; Delaware

22. Election and Installation of Officers

- a. See Motion 11 for election
- b. **Motion 12:**
 - i. BS - Meeting adjourned 7:35pm
 - ii. MG – seconded
 - iii. Motion carries

23. Awards Ceremony to follow.



ASCLS-PA T-Shirt

Show off your pride as a medical laboratory professional and ASCLS-PA member!

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ASCLS-PA Awards Ceremony

Mary M. Gourley
ASCLS-PA Awards Chair

The ASCLS-PA Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony was held on May 7, 2023. To be nominated by your peers is indeed a great honor. The following ASCLS-PA members were recognized.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Sharon Strauss



*Sharon Strauss ASCLS-PA
Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient*

Edward C. Dolbey Award: Travis Bicher



Travis Bicher, Edward Dolbey Award Recipient

Estolle Gross Award: Marianne Downes

Keener Memorial Award: Travis Bicher, Jean Buchenhorst, Mary Gourley, Barbara Snyderman, Sharon Strauss, Diane Valentin

Key to the Future: Grace Renn, Catharine Wingle

Omicron Sigma: This year, members could be nominated at various levels: Those members receiving recognition at the **National** level were: Scott Aikey, Heather Herrington, Mary Beth Miele, Stephanie Noblit, Grace Renn, and Barbara Snyderman. Those members recognized at the **Regional** level were: Stephanie Noblit and Barbara Snyderman. Those members recognized at the **State** level were: Travis Bicher, Jean Buchenhorst, Joshua Cannon, Marianne Downes, Mary Gourley, Heather Herrington, Jonathan Meyer, Gabriela Peterson, Grace Renn, Barbara Snyderman, Sharon Strauss, Diane Valentin, and Catharine Wingle.

Pi Alpha: Scott Aikey, Travis Bicher, Melody Botterbusch, Jean Buchenhorst, Joshua Cannon, Marianne Downes, Mary Gourley, Heather Herrington, Stephanie Janiec, Jonathan Meyer, Gabriela Peterson, Grace Renn, Christine Scott, Barbara Snyderman, Sharon Strauss, Diane Valentin, and Catharine Wingle

The following members were recognized for their years of membership:

10 years: Travis Bicher, Nancy Mayer, Stephanie Noblit, Heather Stallman

15 years: Bonnie Abrams, Edwin Beitz, Valerie Jalicke

20 years: Jean Buchenhorst, Marianne Downes

30 years: Terrence DeGuiseppe, Maria Joel, Katie Franz

35 years: Faye Sheinman, Debra Turner

40 years: Jane Gribbon

45 years: Roger Dimit, Barbara Bowman

The ASCLS Annual Meeting was held June 26 through June 30, 2023 in Providence, Rhode Island. The ASCLS Awards Ceremony was held on June 28, emceed by Barbara Brown of Colorado.

The KeyToThe Future Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated leadership potential to the organization. This year, 21 members were recognized. Among

continued on next page

those honored were ASCLS-PA members Grace Renn and Catharine Wingle.

This year there were 310 dedicated members have been recognized with the **Omicron Sigma ASCLS President's Award** and 61 one have been recognized at more than one level. The ASCLS-PA members recognized are listed above in this article.

Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity provided \$47,000 in scholarship. Receiving an AMTF Undergraduate Scholarship were Abdul Aleryani and Charlesie Rawles of Pennsylvania.

The ASCLS Education and Research Fund Scholarships presented \$13,000 in scholarships. Pyik New Kissig of Ohio received the Edward C. Dolbey Graduate Scholarship, Stephanie Lopez of Maryland received the Edward C. Dolbey Undergraduate MLS Scholarship and Caryl Mauk of Texas received the Edward C. Dolbey Undergraduate MLT Scholarship. Colleen Cooper of Wisconsin received the first ever **Snyderwomen Scholarship**.

Heather Herrington was a nominee for the **Ascending Professional Leadership Award**.

There were three nominees for the **ASCLS 2023 Lifetime**

Achievement Award: Kathy Doig of Michigan, George Fritsma of Alabama, and Barbara Snyderman of Pennsylvania. The recipient was George Fritsma.

Members and states within ASCLS Region II were also recognized during the Awards Ceremony: **Constituent Society Membership Awards: Greatest % Interest:** New Jersey (14.1%), **Greatest Increase:** New Jersey (17); **Constituent Society Publication:** New Jersey (2nd place), **Constituent Society Website:** New Jersey (3rd placed); **50 Years Membership:** Jean Jarzabek (NJ) and P. Christine King (VA); **70 Years Membership:** Josephine Duncan (VA); **Scholarships: Dorothy Morrison Memorial:** Carolina Vilchez (NJ), **Roma E. Brown/Nellie M. Bering Memorial:** Roman Hendrickson (MT), **Martha Winstead Memorial:** Aditi Sarkar (NJ), **AMTF Undergraduate:** Jonathan Vasquez (NJ); **Ascending Professional Leadership Nominee:** Michele Sloma (NJ); **Clinical Laboratory Educators Forum Student Paper Award: Research:** Amy Joy Vinarao (VA)

Congratulations to all the winners. And a very sincere THANK YOU for your service and dedication to our profession and our professional society.

Welcome New Members!

Did you know that many people forget to update their address for at least 5 services when they move? Have you checked on your personal contact information lately from ASCLS? ASCLS-PA uses the national ASCLS membership database to contact it's members. When you renew your membership this season (Memberships expire July 31st!) please ensure your contact details are correct at members.ascls.org.

your ASCLS membership and for your ongoing commitment to ensuring our common vision is achieved through our collective voice.

ASCLS is dedicated to using its resources to fight for the profession and provide you with support and resources to represent the best in medical laboratory science. Be sure to make use of the beneficial ASCLS resources that will enhance your career and spark your passion for the profession:

- Free webinars on a variety of topics, all available for P.A.C.E.® credit
- Virtual and in-person conferences, including the

new Emerging Laboratory Managers Collaborative Conference (ELMC2), PRISM, and the Joint Annual Meeting

- Quality virtual education through labucate.org, delivering CE online when it's most convenient to you
- ASCLS Connect, featuring online discussion communities that allow you to ask questions, share your experiences, and get real-world advice from other laboratory professionals
- The ASCLS Career Center, where you can search and apply for openings based on personalized criteria
- Mentor matching program, giving you the opportunity to form a peer relationship with a medical laboratory professional who shares your interests

ASCLS-PA would like to welcome the members who have joined during the spring. If you're working with any of these individuals, please welcome them to the

society. If you have questions about your membership and benefits of membership, please reach out to Marianne Downes @ mtdownes1@geisinger.edu.

Joseph Murphy	Lancaster	PA
Abdulrahman Aleryani	Collegeville	PA
Debra Kennedy	Waynesboro	PA
Deborah Phillips	Bethlehem	PA
Madeline Rosti	Philadelphia	PA

Sifa Ndonga	Hummelstown	PA
Molly Sieger	Adamstown	MD
Shane Warner	Philadelphia	PA
Jen Mehlretter	Gilbertsville	PA
Megan Zinn	York	PA



ASCLS.PA 2023 Spring Meeting

Jean Buchenhorst
Career Recruitment Chair

This Spring meeting was my first time acting as General Chair and I was pleased with the success of the meeting! The meeting took place May 8 at the Harrisburg/Hershey Red Lion Hotel. There were 75 attendees, 20 speakers and 11 vendors. If you were able to attend the Spring meeting you should have your PACE certificate for up to

five hours of Continuing Education (a good amount for a one day meeting!). Microbiology, Transfusion Medicine, Hematology, Chemistry and Laboratory Operations topics were all available to choose from over the day meeting. Thanks to Joshua Cannon who did an excellent job putting together the program! I'd also like to thank Sharon Strauss for handling registration and my questions as a new general chair, Travis Bicher for contacting and organizing the vendors, Grace Renn for handling the financials and all the board members who acted as moderators and helped in other ways. This year the Spring meeting program was only offered online (a postcard and flier were mailed) and meeting handouts were posted on One Drive for printing or access during the meeting. If you were able to attend and want to give any feedback on this, please email me at JeanBuchenhorst@gmail.com. The ASCLS.PA Board has started planning for next year's Spring meeting already



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Operations of a Stem Cell Lab



Xylazine: A Growing Problem



Speaker MaryAnn Sromoski with Andrew Kwasnieski at Hemosonics Booth



Joint Annual Meeting Highlights

Submitted by **Barbara Snyderman**

Delegates and members of ASCLS-PA joined over 800 attendees in Providence Rhode Island June 26-30 for the Joint Annual Meeting of the ASCLS, SAFMLS (Society of American Federal Medical laboratory Scientists) and the AGT (Association of Genetic Technologists). The meeting was hybrid: both in-person and virtual attendees were able to take advantage of many hours of continuing education and society events. Our delegation was led by ASCLS-PA President **Stephanie Noblit**.

Attendance has been rising every year since the pandemic eased. It was great to see our old friends and make new ones at the meeting. ASCLS truly is a family!

The meeting opened with the presentation of colors by the military branches in attendance. This is always a moving ceremony during which each branch sings their songs while standing at attention. Each group tried to out-do the other with volume and enthusiasm.

There was a record number of exhibitors at this meeting as well. Attendees were able to discuss the latest technology with our vendor partners. Their support of our meetings means a great deal.

Delegates voted for the candidates who will lead the ASCLS for the following year. Elected were:

Pat Tille, President-elect

Nicholas Moore, Ali Nussbaum and Joshua Pulido, Directors

Maddie Josephs, Judicial Committee

Mark DeLuna, Stephanie Jacobson, Floyd Josephat, Tripat Kaur and Kemorine Roberts Nomination Committee.

Our own **Heather Herrington** was sworn in as the incoming Ascending Professional Director for the Board of Directors and will serve a 1 year term.

The House of Delegates voted to pass the following position papers:

Revised Licensure of Medical laboratory Professionals

Revised Health Care Reform

Revised Patient Safety and Clinical Laboratory Science.

Claude Rector was sworn in as the President of ASCLS for the 2023-2024 society year.

Three institutions received the prestigious Mendelson Award: **Rutgers University, University of Texas Galveston** and **Kansas University** for being pioneers of the Doctor of Clinical Laboratory Science Programs. In addition, President **Kim Von Ahsen** also received a Mendelson for her service to ASCLS.

As always, it was a memorable meeting. We will see you in Pittsburgh next July!

ASCLS-PA Needs Volunteers!

Ever consider volunteering for your professional organization but were not sure where to start? Too afraid that a task will be too big to handle?

We are looking for individuals willing to shadow our leaders and committees for possible future activity. For example, if you have always wanted to learn about managing a website or interested in society finances, our leaders would be happy to mentor you.

Our society is also the host for the 2024 ASCLS Annual Meeting, known as the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM)

and we will need volunteers for the host table at the meeting. It is scheduled for July 7 to 11, 2024 in Pittsburgh! We are very excited to show off the western part of our state and have a few unique activities for our attendees. Local volunteers will be most appreciated.

Please contact me if you need further information or want to be included in meeting notices.

Barbara Snyderman

ASCLS-PA President 2023-2024



The Pennsylvania Newsletter
544 Manton Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

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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
130 South 9th Street
Edison Building, Suite 2211
Philadelphia, PA 19107
to insure uninterrupted service

Upcoming Events

**2023 Laboratory
Legislative Symposium**
October 23-24, 2023
Hilton Alexandria
Old Town Alexandria, VA

ASCLS-PA Summer Meeting
TBD
Zoom

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All members of ASCLS-PA are welcome and encouraged to attend any meeting of the Board of Directors.
To get involved, email Stephanie Noblit at [***snoblitms@gmail.com***](mailto:snoblitms@gmail.com)