



ASCLS
The American Society for
Clinical Laboratory Science
PENNSYLVANIA 

Joint Spring Meeting of the
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-
Pennsylvania

and the

Pennsylvania State Society of
American Medical Technologists

April 28, 2026

Presidential Caterers
2910 Dekalb Pike
East Norriton, PA

2026 Annual Meeting

Welcome to the 89th 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	\$82.00

2026 Annual Meeting Planning Committee

General Chair:	William Hunt and Barbara Snyderman
Program Chair:	Joshua Cannon
Vendor Chair:	Gabriella Peterson
Registration Chair:	Sharon Strauss

Accommodations

Hyatt House - Philadelphia / Plymouth Meeting

501 East Germantown Pike
East Norriton, PA
610-699-9154

Call hotel directly for reservations: there is no group code required.

General Meeting Schedule

Saturday, April 18, 2026: 11 a.m. **Virtual Only**
ASCLS PA BOD and Business Meeting
Check ASCLS Pennsylvania Connect Community or ASCLS-PA website for meeting information.

Tuesday, April 28, 2025:

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast, Registration and <u>Dedicated Exhibit Time</u>
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	General Sessions
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	General Sessions
10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	<u>Dedicated Exhibit Time</u>
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	General Sessions
12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Buffet Lunch / ASCLS-PA Awards and Officer Installation. <u>Exhibit Time</u>
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	General Sessions
2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	<u>Dedicated Exhibit Time</u>
2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	General Sessions
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	PASSAMT Business Meeting (All State Society AMT Members welcome) Hyatt House Conference Room

P.A.C.E.® approval is pending for all sessions.
ASCLS-PA is an approved provider of Continuing Education programs by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program.
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.

Vendors Confirmed as of 3/15/2026

Beckman-Coulter
Biorad
Cellavision / Sysmex
Cepheid
Data Innovations
Diasorin
GFMD
Hologic
Main Line Health
I. Miller
Qiagen
Stago

General Program

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. First sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m.

“Molecular Oncology in Practice: Tools, Techniques, and Trends for the Modern Lab”

Andrew Campbell, PhD, HCLD(ABB)
Associate Director of Clinical Genomics Development
Geisinger Health System
Danville, PA

Provides medical laboratory professionals with a practical overview of the evolving role of molecular diagnostics in cancer care. Explores core principles of molecular oncology, highlights the clinical impact of genomic biomarkers, and examines modern tools used in today's laboratories. Attendees will gain insights into next-generation sequencing workflows, quality considerations, and emerging trends shaping precision oncology and the technologist's role in delivering accurate, actionable results.

“The ABC's of Laboratory Safety”

Allison Eck, DHA, HTL(ASCP)cm, QLS Director Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Penn Medicine Doylestown Hospital Doylestown, PA	Donna Chuddley, HT(ASCP)cm, QLS Education Coordinator Reading Area Community College Reading, PA
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The laboratory is known to be one of the most hazardous work settings. Understanding workplace safety is important for protecting employees from harm and danger and improves patient safety. This talk will take an ABC approach to the multitude of safety topics within a laboratory and provide insight on addressing the most common safety issues.

“Feedback and Evaluations for Career Growth in the Clinical Lab: Two-Way Conversations”

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

Giving and receiving feedback is a skill we may not receive formal training in, yet it plays a critical role in maintaining competency, adhering to policies and quality standards, developing technical skills, sustaining job satisfaction, and supporting career advancement. This interactive session is designed to strengthen participants' ability to give and receive effective feedback and to optimize the performance evaluation process.

“Giving Rh positive RBCs to Rh negative patients designated as DNR/DNI: A Novel Way to Preserve Rh Negative Inventory”

Julie Katz Karp, MD
Professor, Director of Transfusion Medicine
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

A minority of blood donors are Rh negative, and Rh negative red blood cell (RBC) products are often overutilized. Our laboratory created clear guidelines for the routine administration of Rh positive RBCs to Rh negative patients who are not at risk for hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn (HDFN). As a result, Rh negative RBC inventory can be directed to those patients who would most benefit from this limited resource.

“How Blood Clots – Evolution of our understanding of the hemostatic process in vitro and in vivo”

Michael H. Creer, MD, FASCP, FCAP
Lawrence M. Demers Endowed Professor of Pathology, Clinical Laboratory Medical Director
Penn State University Hershey Medical Center
Hershey, PA

This session discusses how we discovered the intrinsic and extrinsic blood clotting pathways in a test tube, proposed in vivo hemostasis pathways, and the limitations of lab tests in predicting abnormal bleeding and thrombus formation in thrombophilia patients.

“Bacteremia in a Toddler with a Head Injury: Applying Laboratory Findings to Clinical Practice”

Emily Reed, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}
Clinical Instructor
San Francisco State University
San Francisco, CA

A 2-year-old is brought to the emergency room with a fever and a bump on his head with cellulitis. He has been examined in the emergency room and urgent care several times in recent weeks for various reasons, including a fall in the back yard. Today, he is bacteremic. This presentation will discuss the causative agent and the patient's clinical course while encouraging the listener to take an active role in clinically correlating laboratory findings.

“How hospitals can benefit from anti-Xa and heparin-Induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) testing implementation”

Paul Riley, PhD, MBA
Portfolio Development & Engagement Scientist, North America
Diagnostica Stago, Inc.
Parsippany, NJ

Unfractionated heparin (UFH) is a parenteral anticoagulant given to hospitalized patients at risk of venous thrombosis. Chromogenic anti-Xa can be used as a monitoring assay instead of activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT), leading to institutional benefits, including fewer tests performed, fewer dosing changes, and more time within the therapeutic range. In addition, patients receiving UFH can have an allergic reaction to the combination of UFH and platelet factor 4 (PF4). Clinician scoring and lab screening assays can help to diagnose and risk stratify patients, leading to fewer adverse outcomes. This lecture will cover both of these related topics.

“Navigating Discordant Urine Drug Test Results: When Findings Don’t Fit the Clinical Picture”

Sheng-Ying (Margaret) Lo, PhD, DABCC
Associate Director of Clinical Chemistry
Geisinger Health System
Danville, PA

Unexpected urine drug test results frequently create clinical uncertainty. This session reviews the strengths and limitations of urine drug screening and confirmation methods and addresses common scenarios in which results do not align with clinical expectations. Participants will learn to interpret discordant or complex findings and leverage laboratory performance data to improve consultative guidance and enhance the quality of clinical decision support.

“Service Influencers: Intra and Cross-Departmental Initiatives to Improve Patient Experience”

Gabriela C. Peterson, MHA, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}
Director of Laboratory Services,
Bryn Mawr Hospital Main Line Health
Bryn Mawr, PA

Examples of quality management tools that can be used to monitor and improve patient experience within laboratory services will be discussed. It will also provide guidance on establishing cross-departmental initiatives to promote ‘managing up’ principles that improve cross-functional communication, service delivery, and patient safety.

“Tube-Powered Transfusion: Enhancing Emergency Blood Delivery for MTP”

Christine Thompson, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, SBB(ASCP)^{CM}
Blood Bank Technical Manager
Penn Medicine – Pennsylvania Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

Massive Transfusion Protocol (MTP) response is a critical function of the transfusion service and varies by hospital layout, trauma designation, and available resources. After several unexpected trauma cases at our non-trauma facility, we initiated process improvements to accelerate blood availability. Implementing pneumatic tube transport for initial red cell units significantly reduced delivery times. This session reviews the operational considerations, validation requirements, and lessons learned from integrating this system into our emergency response workflow.

“Point of Care and at Home Testing as Mechanisms for Health Equity”

Christina Pierre, PhD
Assistant Professor, Perelman School of Medicine
Penn Medicine - Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Healthcare access and quality, including access to laboratory testing, are key social determinants of health. In the United States, more than 80% of the population live in healthcare deserts or areas that lack adequate healthcare infrastructure. Point of care and at home testing, can significantly improve access to testing and are growing in availability. This session will discuss the benefits and caveats of point of care and at home testing from a health equity perspective.

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

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

A presentation of several Infectious Diseases cases as unknowns in an interactive format, to obtain feedback from the group regarding the initial differential diagnosis, then explore the workup, diagnose the condition, and determine appropriate treatment.

“Testing Smarter not Harder: Practical Stewardship Strategies to Optimize Use of GI Panels”

Rebekah Dumm, PhD D(ABMM)
Assistant Professor, Pathology & Immunology
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis MO

A practical framework for determining when multiplex GI panels are appropriate versus when stand-alone tests offer greater clinical value will be presented. It compares traditional culture and molecular methods, emphasizing differences in turnaround time, workflow, and diagnostic relevance. Participants will learn to align test selection with patient presentation and stewardship principles to reduce unnecessary testing, minimize misleading results, and improve laboratory efficiency and patient care.

“When Bone Marrow Goes off Track: Myeloproliferative Neoplasms & Myelodysplastic Syndrome”

Pooja Devi, MBBS, MD
Assistant Professor, Hematopathology and Surgical Pathology Division, Associate Fellowship Director,
Hematopathology, Department of Pathology
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

The speaker will present the clinical manifestations, driver mutations, and diagnostic principles of Myeloproliferative and Myelodysplastic Neoplasms

“Gram Stain Case Studies: Small Details and Big Impacts”

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

Dr. Smith will present an interactive discussion of clinical cases in microbiology. For each case, a brief history will be provided, and a Gram stain result will be shown. The audience will be asked to interpret the stain and provide a differential diagnosis by synthesizing the stain result and case history. The case will be closed by discussing how the stain was acted on by the clinical team, growth on culture, and patient outcome.

“Practical Approaches to Improving Test Utilization in the Microbiology Lab and Beyond”

Courtney Comar, PhD, D(ABMM)
Associate Director of Clinical Microbiology, Assistant Professor of Pathology & Genomic Medicine
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

The benefits and challenges of investigating test utilization and implementing diagnostic stewardship in the clinical Laboratory will be presented. Specific examples of opportunities for improving test stewardship in the microbiology laboratory and different approaches for implementation 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.

“Clinical informatics and you: How medical record interface and order entry affect the lab and our patients”

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

This session explores how electronic medical record design—particularly order entry and result display—shapes laboratory workflow and patient care. We will discuss clinical decision support, differences in how information appears to laboratory staff versus clinicians, and real examples of medical errors linked to CPOE and interface design, including cases beyond pathology. The goal is to highlight how informatics decisions directly influence laboratory practice and patient safety.

Additional sessions to follow!

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.

