



# The Pennsylvania Newsletter

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

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## President's Message



By Sharon Strauss, ASCLS-PA President

### Outside Your Comfort Zone

Have you ever failed? I am sure that we all could answer yes to this question; I actually **hope** that you can answer yes. You are probably wondering why I would say that. I really believe that if we never experience failure, it means that we are not challenging ourselves to try new things. Failure does not mean that we are any less, but it does mean that we have tried something new and hopefully learned from the experience. We will never reach our goals if we don't attempt to expand our horizons beyond what is comfortable. For everything that has ever been invented, I am sure that there were many failures before success was achieved. Think of all of the modern conveniences that we would not have if people would never have made the attempt. The world would be a very different place.

I often relate this concept to the sport of skiing. Many people, unless they are experts, feel like they have had a good day if they do not fall during a full day of skiing. I would suggest that maybe these people have taken the safe course down the mountain, doing only slopes that they feel that they can do successfully on their first attempt. I often felt that if I went an entire day without falling, I had not tried more difficult slopes, different kinds of terrain, or different techniques. We all need to challenge ourselves. We will often surprise ourselves at what we can accomplish. Confucius once said "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall".

So, reach outside your box and try that which you have never done. The greater the challenge that you attempt, the greater your satisfaction will be when you achieve success.

### Mark Your Calendar!!!

#### Fall 2007 ASCLS-PA Board of Director's Meeting

Saturday, November 10th

Location: HACC's Harrisburg Campus

All members welcome!

If you would like to get involved with ASCLS-PA leadership, contact Sharon Strauss at [sstra610@aol.com](mailto:sstra610@aol.com) for more information.

#### ASCLS Region II Board of Director's Meetings:

Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

Location: Greater Baltimore Medical Center

For more information, visit the ASCLS Region II Website at <http://www.asclsregion2.org> and click on Calendar of Events!

#### ASCLS-PA 2008 Spring Meeting

April 29-30, 2008

Location: Scanticon, Valley Forge convention plaza, King of Prussia, PA

For more information, see article on page 2.

### Have you seen our Website lately???

[www.ascls-pa.org](http://www.ascls-pa.org)

### Check out what's inside:

- ◆ 2008 ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting info
- ◆ Government and licensure update
- ◆ Recent award winners
- ◆ Photos from the 2007 ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting
- ◆ Updates of ASCLS-PA Chapters
- ◆ Levels of Practice input needed
- ◆ Message from the outgoing ASCLS-PA president
- ◆ Message from the Region II Director

## Laboratory Leader Receives Award for Excellence in Clinical Laboratory Science

News Release, Princeton  
HealthCare System



PRINCETON, New Jersey – **Charles V. Wilson**, MHA, MT (ASCP), Administrative Director, Clinical Laboratories, University Medical Center at Princeton (UMCP), was recently awarded the 2007 Edward P. Dolbey Award for professional achievements in the field of clinical laboratory science.

First given in 1958, the Edward P. Dolbey Award — established by Edward P. Dolbey and Company, formerly of Philadelphia — is given annually to an outstanding clinical laboratory science professional in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The recipient is selected by peer members of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Pennsylvania (ASCLS-PA). Wilson, a resident of Philadelphia, has been a member for 20 years.

Wilson said, “I am extremely honored to be the recipient of such a coveted award. The Edward P. Dolbey Award for Clinical Laboratory Excellence is a testament to the dedication, commitment and sacrifices made on behalf of the advancement and promotion of the profession.” He added, “I proudly join the ranks of those who have received this honor and shall continue to strive toward excellence in the field of clinical laboratory science.”

During his two and half years at University Medical Center at Princeton, Wilson has instilled a global perspective with regard to governance of the laboratory. He explains, “It is in my best interests to develop and implement the most efficient laboratory possible and to assist my peers in doing the same. As both a consumer and provider of healthcare services, I will benefit directly from the establishment of sound and efficient laboratory practices regionally and nationally. That said, it is a labor of love, and well worth it when you see your efforts result in improved healthcare across the industry.”

To be eligible for the Dolbey Award one must:

- ◆ Have had membership in ASCLS-PA for at least five successive years prior to the nomination.
- ◆ Have made gainful contributions to the activities of ASCLS-PA.
- ◆ Be actively engaged in the profession of clinical laboratory science for five years prior to the nomination.

(Wilson, continued on page 3)

## 2008 Annual Spring Meeting April 29 & 30, 2008

By **Mary Beth Miele**,  
Chair, ASCLS-PA  
2008 Annual Spring Meeting

Mark your calendars for April 29-30, 2008 for a full slate of continuing education opportunities! The Annual Spring meeting sponsored by ASCLS-PA in conjunction with PSSAMT and PABB will be held at the Scanticon at the Valley Forge convention plaza, 1160 First Avenue, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

A full schedule of talks is planned for both days with a guarantee of six hours of P.A.C.E.-approved credit each day. Sessions will cover topics in the following categories: Transfusion Medicine, Microbiology, Clinical Chemistry, Hematology, and General. The General category will include talks focused on phlebotomy, management, and legislative issues affecting our profession. Also, included is a wide variety of snack foods and liquid refreshments available for morning and afternoon breaks and a sumptuous lunch buffet. Early registration rates (postmarked by 4/14/08) are as follows: **Members - \$120.00; Non-members - \$160.00; Student members - \$ 40.00 and Student non-members \$50.00.** After April 14, registration rates are \$145.00 for members and \$185.00 for non-members.

So mark your calendars, plan to attend, come hear experts in our field share current knowledge and emerging concerns, and take advantage of networking opportunities with your colleagues. All attendees are invited to attend a networking dinner Tuesday evening for an additional charge. Hope to see you there!

For those attendees requiring overnight lodging - A room block has been reserved for the nights of April 28 and April 29 at the Scanticon at a rate of \$142.00/night (single/double) or \$152.00/night (triple/quad), up until March 28, 2008. Reservations should be made by calling 610-337-2000 between the hours of 8AM – 6PM and asking for the reservation department. It is important that you identify yourself as an attendee of the ASCLS-PA Annual Spring meeting.

Mary Beth Miele  
(mmiele@hmc.psu.edu)  
General Chair  
2008 ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting

## Calling All Members!!

**By Michele E. Lachance, ASCLS-PA  
Chair, Chapter Development Committee**

Are you aware that along with being a member of the ASCLS-PA, you are also a member of a specific chapter within PA? We have eight chapters in our state, yet six of them are considered "inactive" due to loss of leadership and lack of activity. The Chapter Development Committee of the ASCLS-PA would like to work with members in each of the chapters to reinstitute leadership and activity and once again involve all of our members in the functions of our society!

Are you interested in attending ASCLS-PA board meetings but find them to be in inconvenient locations? Do you have ideas or suggestions of speakers or events you would like to see happen in your area? Would you like to be more active in your society but just don't know how to get started? Let us help you reinvigorate your area's chapter and help you be more involved in your professional organization. I urge each of you to consider what you would like your society to do for you and what you can do for your society. Our committee will be emailing and phoning members throughout the state to assess interest in chapter revitalization, but I encourage anyone who is interested in leadership, attending meetings, getting more information, or who just may have ideas or suggestions for your area to contact me at [melac2571@comcast.net](mailto:melac2571@comcast.net). I'd love to hear from you, and I would love for you to become involved once again with us. Hope to hear from you soon!!!

**Not sure which ASCLS-PA chapter  
you belong to?**

**Go to our Website at [www.ascls-pa.org](http://www.ascls-pa.org)  
And click on "about us"**

(Wilson, cont. from page 2)

In 2003, Wilson served as president of the ASCLS-PA and continues to serve on its board of directors. He is chairman of the ASCLS-PA's Political Action Committee, which is involved in strengthening clinical laboratory standards across the country. Also active with ASCLS-NJ, Wilson is a vocal advocate for state legislation that would require licensure for performing clinical laboratory testing in the state of New Jersey.

Wilson concludes, "National and state standards for clinical laboratory science have improved over the years, but much more work is warranted. As both a consumer and a provider, I have a fiduciary responsibility to deliver the highest quality of laboratory testing to the community. We are doing that here at University Medical Center at Princeton."

## Chapter Rejuvenation!

**By Sandy Neiman,  
ASCLS-PA Past  
President**



One of my major goals as past-president for 2007-2008 is to reach out to members across the state and stir up some activity.....activity in continuing education, networking and camaraderie. Each Spring, many of us enjoy seeing old colleagues at the Annual Spring Meeting. It is a warm feeling of fellowship socializing with old friends, and the joy in sharing the cutting edge technologies. Why does this exist only once a year for most laboratorians? If local chapters were revitalized, this rich source of knowledge and friendship could continue all year long.

To this end, an ad hoc committee of ASCLS-PA has been formed. This committee, the Chapter Development Committee is being chaired by Michele Lachance.

A case-in-point is the Lehigh Valley Chapter which hadn't met in the last five years. Activity was resumed in January '07 with a presentation given by Dr. Howard Englert of Laboratory Corporation. He spoke on the latest diagnostic methodologies in microbiology diagnoses. Eighteen members attended the session at Saint Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, PA, some traveling from as far away as East Stroudsburg and Hershey. All went away a little smarter and each with 1.0 C.E.U. The bonus was the reunion with fellow laboratorians and the exchanging of ideas with peers.

Wouldn't it be great if all ASCLS-PA chapters resumed their activities, even with one meeting? Laboratorians don't need to assume leadership positions to show solidarity to our profession. But we all do need to step up to the plate when our participation is required.

Michele is beginning her task by conducting a phone interview to ask what members want from your professional organization and specifically what activities you would like to see happening in your area. If she calls you please cooperate with her. Better still....don't wait for her call but initiate your own meeting. ASCLS-PA members will be most anxious to assist you in any way. Look up our leadership list on our website [www.ascls-pa.org](http://www.ascls-pa.org) and call or e-mail any of us. The sooner the better!

## Photos from the ASCLS-PA 2007 Annual Spring Meeting At HACC's Harrisburg Campus



Above is the C. Ted Lick Conference Center, located at HACC's Harrisburg Campus. This is the first time we had the conference at this facility.



Above is the conference center lobby....yes, we were having a little fun with the sculpture!



The food, always important at any meeting, was quite delicious!



The spacious dining room held all of us at the same time!



Seated above are Sharon Strauss (left), registration and Judy Hoover (right), ASCLS-PA treasurer. Sharon is also the ASCLS-PA Webmaster and the current President.



The many attendees enjoyed spending time in the lobby between presentations..



At the House of Delegates meeting, we always induct new officers. Above right, Sandy Neiman, outgoing ASCLS-PA President congratulates the incoming President, Sharon Strauss (left).



Some of ASCLS-PA leaders: bottom row, left to right, Elizabeth Bakken, President-elect; Sharon Strauss, President; Sandy Neiman, Past-President. Second row, left to right: Michele Lachance, board member; Jaime Zeiders, board member; Katie Franz, secretary; Judy Hoover, treasurer; Eileen Molecavage, board member; Chris Thomas, student advisor.



The bag-stuffing party the night before! Left to right: Sandy Neiman, Judy Hoover, Janet Devine.



Those guys are having way too much fun stuffing those bags! Front to back (right to left): Judy Hoover, Michele Lachance, Elizabeth Bakken, Janet Devine.



Meeting general chair, Ruth Negley (left) with Sandy Neiman (right). Negley received the Estolle Gross Award.



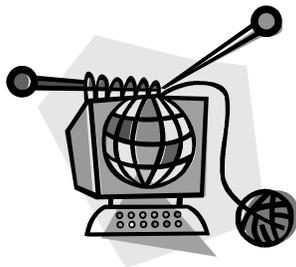
Program chair, Janet Devine (left) with Sandy Neiman (right). Devine received the Keener Memorial Service Award.

**Input Needed!**

**Mary Ann McLane,  
ASCLS Region II  
Director**



The white paper on "Levels of Practice" which was developed by an ASCLS Task Force and shared at the 2007 ASCLS meeting in San Diego, needs to be reviewed by EACH of us in our societies so that feedback and input can be shared. I cannot emphasize how important it is for all ASCLS-PA members to do this since there will be a motion to accept this at the 2008 House of Delegates. Our delegates need to be informed about how everyone feels about this proposal, since it really asks us all to think outside the box, PLUS it does try to address the incongruities which now separate how our students are educated versus what they are asked to do in the workplace. If you need a copy of the paper, contact Mary Ann McLane at [mclane@udel.edu](mailto:mclane@udel.edu) or visit the ASCLS-PA Website to download the document.



**NISOD Excellence in  
teaching award**

**News Release,  
HACC Gettysburg Campus**



Harrisburg, PA – **Ruth Negley** of Carlisle, assistant professor of biology at the Gettysburg Campus of HACC, was among five faculty members at the college selected for outstanding service and excellence in teaching.

Negley joined her colleagues representing HACC at the annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence, sponsored by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) at the University of Texas, Austin. The five professors each received the national NISOD Excellence in Teaching Award during the conference.

Negley's award recognized her dedication for teaching in several areas. She is the biology department facilitator, overseer of the Medical Laboratory Technician program and she also teaches biology online for HACC's Virtual Campus.

Not only does Negley receive positive reviews from her students, she also is an adviser for a large number of allied health related majors. She is co-adviser of the Gettysburg Campus Environmental Club.

NISOD is part of the Community College Leadership Program in the Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, at the University of Texas. HACC is part of the membership consortium of colleges and universities that share a philosophical commitment to the support of excellence in teaching and learning.

**ASCLS-PA Newsletter On-line!**

In order to provide our members with a more timely newsletter and to more efficiently utilize member dollars to provide services to our members, the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors would like to do a trial of a newsletter posted on the ASCLS-PA website rather than our current printed newsletter. When this newsletter is posted, we would like to send out an e-mail to all members alerting them to the fact that a new edition of the newsletter can be found on the website. We realize that not everyone has access to the internet. In order to plan for this conversion, we are asking everyone to fill out the questionnaire below to allow us to build the e-mail distribution list and to determine the number of printed copies of the newsletter that we would need to mail to those who don't have internet access. Please complete the form and mail it to: Sharon Strauss, 8 Lakeview Court, Sinking Spring, PA 19608 Or send by email to [sstra610@aol.com](mailto:sstra610@aol.com)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have access to the internet? \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to access the Pennsylvania Newsletter on the website?  Yes  No

## Government News



### Personnel Licensure and ASCLS-PA By Linda Semler, ASCLS-PA Federal Government Liaison

At the summer leadership meeting, I asked the ASCLS-PA board for their thoughts on personnel licensure and where our state society stood on this issue. The reply was, we are very interested, but we want a "good" bill not a "bad" bill. I brought up this issue because on September 22, 2007, I will be having breakfast with my state representative and wished to know how to address this subject. Historically, we have seen states with very good licensure bills and some with "disasters". Lately, in PA I have noticed many professions seeking personnel licensure. The problem is "manpower" and financial shortcomings.

The laboratory professional seems to be the type of person who comes in the door, does "his/her" job and punches out on time. We need to be motivated by the climate of the profession. Let's face it – we are "aging" and we have a severe personnel shortage to boot. Many laboratory professionals are taking early retirement or changing professions due to the high stress levels a person must endure while doing the best quality testing you can in a "timely" fashion. We need to dedicate ourselves to the protection of the profession and growth of our leadership base so we can address these issues.

Have you reviewed the ASCLS website or the ASCLS-PA website lately? Can you take a few hours on a Saturday and attend a leadership meeting or email the ASCLS-PA President, Sharon Strauss ([sstra610@aol.com](mailto:sstra610@aol.com)) and offer your time for a professional activity? You would surprise yourself as to what you can accomplish if you took a little time. Linda Semler, Federal Government Liaison, ASCLS-PA ([lindalou26@msn.com](mailto:lindalou26@msn.com))

### The 2008 Legislative Symposium will be held on March 17-18, 2008 at Washington DC.

For more information about this important event, or if you would be interested in attending, please contact Linda Semler, [lindalou26@msn.com](mailto:lindalou26@msn.com)

### "Competitive Bidding" – How May It Affect the Life of the Clinical Laboratory Practitioner?

By Linda Semler,  
Federal Government Liaison

In 1988, CLIA 88 (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act) was passed by Congress. In this act, suggestions were given of how Medicare could save money when paying for laboratory testing. One unfortunate idea was a "competitive bidding" model. Many years ago, ASCLS joined with other laboratory organizations to form a coalition to have a stronger voice in opposition of this idea. In 2003, Congress passed the "Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003".

Now you may ask yourself, how would this impact the clinical laboratory? This Act mandated that CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) conduct a demonstration project to determine whether competitive bidding can be used to provide Part B clinical laboratory services below current Medicare payment rates while maintaining quality and access to care. On July 3, 2007, CMS released a draft of the "Bidder's Package". If you think your laboratory manager is overloaded with work and you do not have enough hours in the day to perform quality laboratory testing in a "timely manner", and you are seeing your bench-mates leaving the profession; all with little or no help on the horizon – join the real world of the clinical laboratory profession.

Although ASCLS and their laboratory partners avidly reply to these "disasters", it is you, the member, and your fellow colleagues who are needed to address these matters which impact your profession. Take some time, browse the ASCLS website on government issues, find out what you can do to email your Senator/ Congressman and let them know what you think. Most of all EDUCATE YOURSELF!!! Become a part of the grassroots membership on governmental issues. Questions or comments are requested. I may be contacted by email; [lindalou26@msn.com](mailto:lindalou26@msn.com). Linda L. Semler, ASCLS-PA Federal Government Liaison.

### ASCLS-PAC Donations By Linda Semler, ASCLS-PA Federal Government Liaison

It is a "hot" political arena for the coming months. The ASCLS-PAC needs your donations so that they might be able to continue the support of "laboratory friendly" Congressional leaders. No amount is too small!!! Write a check today to ASCLS-PAC and send to: ASCLS-PAC, 6701 Democracy Boulevard, Suite 300, Bethesda, MD 20817

Imagine if ASCLS-PA leadership alone would all sent a check for at least \$5.00??? We would also like for our members to consider doing the same. Thank you for your support and your time!!!!



***The Pennsylvania Newsletter  
8 Lakeview Court  
Sinking Spring, PA 19608***

**Moving? Remember you can update all your membership information online at [WWW.ascls-pa.org](http://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**

## **Coming Events**

|               |                                     |                   |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Fall 2007     | ASCLS-PA Board of Directors at HACC | November 10, 2007 |
| Winter 2008   | ASCLS-PA Board of Directors at RACC | January 26, 2008  |
| 2008 ASCLS-PA | Annual Spring Meeting               | April 29-30, 2008 |

## **The Pennsylvania Newsletter**

**The official publication of the  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Pennsylvania**

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Sharon Strauss   | President                 |
| Elizabeth Bakken | President-Elect           |
| Sandra Neiman    | Past-President            |
| Ruth Negley      | Editor                    |
| Editorial Staff  | Board Members of ASCLS-PA |