



The Pennsylvania Newsletter

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

Vol 20 no.1

Winter 2008

President's Message



By Sharon Strauss, ASCLS-PA President

Recently my husband's Aunt, who works in the central sterile processing department at the same hospital that I work in called me and in a whisper asked "Is it true?" "Is what true?" I whispered back. "Do we have MRSA?" she asked. "We all have MRSA" I replied. "It has been around since the early 1980's." This exchange was very comical, but it is an example of how the media has created hysteria by making everyone aware of this organism, and implying that it is something new. Certainly the community acquired strain of Methicillin-Resistant *Staph aureus* (CA-MRSA) is relatively new, compared to the more resistant hospital acquired strain (HA-MRSA). The news reports have increased the workload in my own microbiology lab, as I am sure that they have in many others. In addition to the screening program in our hospital, we now receive numerous requests from outpatient facilities for a wound culture as we always have, but in addition, a note to "rule out MRSA". This has most likely come about because patients going to their physician are asking if their wound could be caused by MRSA.

Did you know that in July of this year, a state law was signed that will affect Pennsylvania hospitals, nursing homes and ambulatory surgical facilities? Part of the push for this law was most likely media attention to the problem of hospital acquired infections. This law is Act 52: Health Care-associated Infection Control & Prevention and is far reaching in its requirements. If your hospital did not screen patients in the past, it has probably started by the time you receive this newsletter. The law established requirements to screen or culture nursing home patients and other high risk patients admitted to hospitals. Hospital laboratories will need to determine whether culture for MRSA or a more expensive molecular method with a faster turn-around-time is right in their particular situation. Is finding out that a person carries (President's Message cont. on page 10)

Mark Your Calendar!!!

Winter 2008 ASCLS-PA Board of Director's Meeting

Saturday, January 26th
Location: RACC, Reading, PA
All members welcome!

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

ASCLS Region II Board of Director's Meeting:

Saturday, March 29th
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 and 3.

Watch for our new ASCLS-PA logo coming soon!

www.ascls-pa.org

Check out what's inside:

- ◆ 2008 ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting info
- ◆ Leadership development update
- ◆ Memorial article on Carolyn J. Snyder, a long-time active member
- ◆ Levels of Practice model
- ◆ Message from the Region II Director
- ◆ Member Profile: Leah Henderson Campbell, HMC Stem Cell laboratory
- ◆ By-Laws change
- ◆ Scholarship updates

2008 Annual Spring Meeting
ASCLS-PA, PSSAMT, PABB
SCANTICON-VALLEY FORGE CONV CTR
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA
April 29-30, 2008

GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE		
Date	Time	Activity
Tuesday, 4/29	7:30 AM	Registration begins
T, 4/29	8:30 AM	Morning Scientific Sessions begin *
T, 4/29	11:30AM – 5:00PM	P.A.C.E. Validation Desk Opens
T, 4/29	11:45AM – 1:15PM	Lunch and Dedicated Exhibit Time
T, 4/29	1:15 – 4:45 PM	Afternoon Scientific Sessions*
T, 4/29	5:00 PM	Social time with Cash Bar starts
T, 4/29	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	NETWORKING DINNER
Wednesday, 4/30	7:30 AM	Registration begins
W, 4/30	8:30 AM	Scientific Sessions begin*
W, 4/30	11:30AM – 5:00PM	P.A.C.E. Validation Desk Hours
W, 4/30	11:45AM – 1:15PM	Lunch and Dedicated Exhibit Time
W, 4/30	1:15 – 4:45 PM	Afternoon Scientific Sessions*

* Scientific sessions: 15 minute breaks will occur between each scientific session.

There will be over 50 hours of P.A.C.E. approved continuing education offered. Concurrent sessions covering the topics of: Clinical Chemistry, Medical Microbiology, Blood Banking, Hematology, as well as a general category covering Management, Legislative Issues, Workforce Shortage, & Phlebotomy will be held over the two day conference. In addition, we will have vendor exhibitors displaying their newest products and services.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registrant Type	Tuesday	Wednesday
Member (ASCLS-PA, PSSAMT, PABB)	\$120	\$120
Non-member	\$160	\$160
Student member	\$ 40	\$ 40
Student Non-member	\$ 50	\$ 50
<i>Additional fee for Registration postmarked after April 14, 2008</i>	Add \$25	Add \$25
Additional fee for Networking Dinner: 4/29/08	Add \$40	-----

GOVERNANCE MEETINGS: ASCLS-PA and PSSAMT

ASCLS-PA Spring Board of Directors and House of Delegates	Mon, April 28, 2008	7:00 PM
PSSAMT Board of Directors	Tues, April 29	7:30 PM
PSSAMT Business meeting	Wed, April 30	10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

2008 Annual Spring Meeting

NETWORKING DINNER: ALL REGISTRANTS ARE INVITED!!

When: 5:30 PM on Tuesday, April 29.

Cost: A sumptuous Valley Forge buffet (valued >\$50) **\$40 per person**.

Menu: Includes Garden salad, Fresh fruit medley, Seafood salad, Roast Top Sirloin, Chicken Francaise Medallions, Vegetarian Lasagna, and assorted desserts.

Why come to the Networking Dinner?? Get acquainted with others in the clinical laboratory science field. Talk about issues. Let your voice be heard, talk about things that matter to you. Learn about opportunities that exist for laboratory professionals. Seek out a mentor, be a mentor. Leaders from all organizations represented will be in attendance. Hang out and relax with old friends and take time to make new friends. Stay over, stay late to avoid the traffic!

LODGING: A room block has been reserved until **March 28, 2008**.

Scanticon Valley Forge Hotel http://www.scanticonvalleyforge.com/ Call 610-337-2000 between 8AM – 6PM Code for discount: "ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting"	Single/double \$142.00/night	Triple/quad \$152.00/ night
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>Stay over, stay Late – AVOID THE TRAFFIC – Stay over, stay Late<

VIRTUAL JOB FAIR: LAB MANAGERS, don't forget we will be having a virtual job fair again this year. Contact Michele Lachance, mlachance@hmc.psu.edu if you are interested. At a cost of \$100, information about your institution and your available positions will be included in our registration materials. Imagine putting your want-ads directly into the hands of 300 lab professionals! A great opportunity, a best-buy, a direct connection to qualified laboratory professionals to fill vacant positions in your lab.

Questions: Contact Sharon Strauss at sstra610@aol.com or ph: 610-927-4165

Please check our Website for more detailed information to be posted soon about the meeting!

www.ascls-pa.org

ASCLS-PA Award Nominations!

Submitted by Mary Gourley, Awards Chair



The ASCLS-PA Awards committee is seeking nominations for the various awards which are presented each year at the Annual Meeting. Any ASCLS-PA member may nominate candidates.

For the nomination forms and specific criteria regarding any award, please refer to our Website at www.ascls-pa.org and click on "awards".

Please contact the Awards Chair at mary.gourley@med.va.gov with any questions.

Nominations for the following awards will be accepted:

1. Edward P. Dolbey Award
2. Estolle Gross Award
3. Key to the Future Award
4. Corporate Award

Deadline for submission of nominations is **March 1, 2008**.

Memories of a Dedicated Member: Carolyn J. Snyder

Submitted by Judy Hoover, ASCLS-PA Treasurer and
Scott Aikey, Finance Chair

Recently, one of our most active members passed away, and we would like to take a portion of this newsletter to honor her life and recognize her contributions to the society.

Carolyn Snyder was born on October 20 in the year 1946 and was called to Eternal life on the 9th day of October in the year 2007, having attained the beautiful age of 60. She was born in Allentown, PA, daughter of the late William J. Snyder. She is survived by her mother, Grace A. Bankert Snyder, and aunt, Gladys Bankert, and an uncle, John Bankert. She was employed by the Holy Spirit Hospital as a clinical laboratory scientist for many years. She was a member of the St. Paul's Dubs UCC Church, Mechanicsburg Rotary Club, the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, and Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity. Carolyn loved to travel, liked golfing and loved the Orioles. She was a very giving and thoughtful person. Even when she was ill, her primary concern was her mother.

Although Carolyn will be greatly missed by her family and friends, by her faithfulness while on earth, it is now our faith that she has entered into the Eternal world of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We commend her into the keeping of Almighty God. We pray for the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ to fill your hearts with peace and joy knowing that because Christ lives, when we die in Him, we too shall live.

(Above is the obituary reprinted from the Thanksgiving Service bulletin for Carolyn J. Snyder, October 15, 2007).

Carolyn obtained her Associate Degree in Medical Technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology. In 1991, she decided to go back to school to obtain a Bachelors degree, and in 1996 graduated from the Penn State University Middletown campus with a B.S. in Public Policy – Healthcare concentration. She worked at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester until she moved back to central Pennsylvania in 1974 and began working for Holy Spirit Hospital as an evening shift coordinator. In 1980, she assumed the position of Hematology Senior Technologist and later the Supervisor of Hematology in 1988. The Holy Spirit Hospital underwent some organizational changes in 1997: Hematology and Chemistry were combined, and once again Carolyn was promoted to the position of Supervisor of Chemistry and hematology, as well as Cytology, Point of Care Testing, and the East Shore Laboratory (an off-site collection center and laboratory that performed testing on a stat basis for physician offices). July of 2005 brought more changes, and Carolyn became the Manager of Support Services. Carolyn was a loyal and dedicated employee for 31 years when she decided that changes in healthcare, as well as



changes within the hospital were too much and she decided to leave to pursue a career in another profession.

I met Carolyn in May of 1980 when I went to work at Holy Spirit Hospital as the Hematology/Coagulation Supervisor. As we worked together, I talked about my activities within PSMT (now ASCLS-PA) and she became interested in helping to work on the program for the Spring Meeting. I often heard her say that I "tricked" her into becoming a member by telling her that if she wanted to help plan the program, she would need to join the Society. Whatever her reason for joining, the rest is, as they say, history. She joined ASMT in 1987 and immediately took an active interest in the Society and never looked back.

Each time the Spring Meeting was held in Harrisburg, she participated in the Program Committee and then later as Program Chair. When ASCLS-PA found it harder to find General Chairs for the meeting, Carolyn agreed to serve as Co-Chair for the meetings held at the Scanticon in Valley Forge, PA. She would drive there whenever and as often as needed to meet with the Convention representatives to ensure the meeting would go smoothly and successfully.

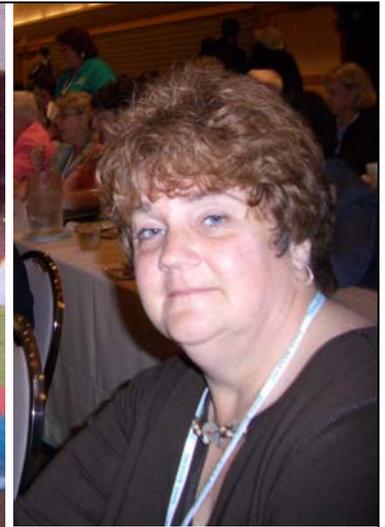
Carolyn was a Board member of ASCLS-PA numerous times and served as the Society President. During her year as President, she changed the format of the Board Meeting to streamline and make them more efficient. When the organization decided to look into state licensure, she contacted her state representative. She attended all meetings of the

Coalition that was formed and attended her first State Legislative Day when a very small but vocal group met in Harrisburg and visited their representatives. When the organization needed a newsletter editor, she stepped up and took on the job even though she had never done this before. She taught herself how to use Desktop Publisher and from 2003-2005, she designed the Pennsylvania Newsletter. She updated the design and ensured that the newsletter was published in a timely manner.

Carolyn received numerous awards and recognitions. She received the Dolbey Award for Member of the Year in 2001 and the Keener Service Award in 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2005 in addition to the Estolle Gross Scrimshaw Award in 1998.

At the local level, Carolyn was very active in Susquehanna Chapter serving in various positions including the Board of Directors, Treasurer and President.

Carolyn also became involved at the national level of ASCLS. She served one term as National Membership Chair and another as Co-Chair. She was full of ideas to try to increase membership and also to retain current members. She received the ASCLS Board of Directors Award for outstanding service in 1994 and again in 1996.



Carolyn attended ASCLS state and national meetings every year from the time she joined until she left the profession in 2005. She also attended ASCLS Legislative Days several times as she felt it was important to keep our legislators informed and ask for their support on matters that impacted the profession.

Outside of ASCLS, Carolyn served as a member of the Cumberland-Perry Vo-Tech Advisory Board from 1995 through 2006. She joined the Mechanicsburg Rotary Club in September 2006.

Her most recent passion and goal was to open her own business. She and I were well on our way to opening a Meadows Frozen Custard store when cancer took her in October 2007. She got so excited when talked about the store and had many ideas she wanted to try. As with everything else, she brought her unique zest to life to that venture as well.

Carolyn's illness and sudden death came as a great surprise to many people. But as with her life, she approached her own death with dignity, courage and a willful approach to plan every detail. Even toward the end, her focus was on ensuring that her mother would be adequately taken care of. She even helped others deal with what she knew was a reality. In the end, she was taken from us entirely too soon with much left to do and accomplish, but she was ready when the time came even though none of us were. She will be missed terribly. The world has lost a vibrant soul, but we are happy for the time we had with Carolyn and the absolute joy she brought to each day of our lives.



“We’re Back”

The ASCLS-PA 2008 Annual Spring Meeting

Is Proud to Announce the Return of

“Live Exhibits and Instrument Demonstrations”

At This Year’s Annual Spring Meeting
in Scenic Valley Forge, PA
April 29-30, 2008

Scheduled Exhibitors include:

Roche Diagnostics
(The Roche Explorer – Total Lab Solutions Testing Platforms)

Mayo Medical Laboratories

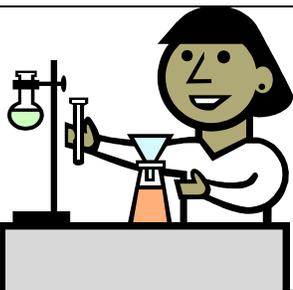
Ortho Clinical Diagnostics

Iris Diagnostics

Labtest.com

Stericycle Waste Management

All exhibits and instrument demonstrations are included in the standard registration fee. Take advantage of this opportunity to speak with vendors and see state of the art instrumentation in action.



Levels of Practice Proposal

Submitted by Ruth A. Negley
Newsletter Editor



Have you ever noticed in the clinical laboratory that the scopes of practice (tasks designated to a particular position/title/certification) overlap for many who have a higher or lower level of education or certification? The frustrating part is that often there is a difference in pay, despite the fact that all are all doing the same tasks.

ASCLS has proposed a model to clearly delineate the levels of practice for each level of certification and education in our profession. I encourage you to take a few minutes and review the proposed model, which can be found on the homepage of ASCLS-PA or by clicking on the following link: <http://www.ascls-pa.org/levelsofpractice2007WP.pdf>

When reading through the model of Levels of Practice on page 7 and 8, you may find that you are capable of performing many more tasks than listed at your level of education or certification. At first glance, our leadership felt that the model was underestimating the capabilities of most CLT/MLTs. However, after discussion, we were in agreement that there should be a minimum standard for entry-level laboratory professionals. The educational coordinators and program directors are finding it more and more difficult to cover the required curriculum in just 1-2 years. Perhaps we are trying to teach at a CLS/MT level in our MLT/CLT programs? By having a minimum level of Practice, we could establish fundamental skills and knowledge required for each certification that can be taught in the educational programs. This model will also provide for lab managers, a clearly established job description for positions in the laboratory. With additional education and training, many MLT/CLTs and CLAs are capable of performing far more than what is listed in the model for their particular level of certification

The model also demonstrates a need for the CLA/PBT professional. Perhaps we need to re-establish CLA programs in hospitals and community colleges. And lastly, in the model are the scopes of practice for the masters and doctoral levels of education. The coalition is not suggesting that we should eliminate the associate or BS level positions, but does show a clearly defined role for the lab professional with additional education and provides a career ladder for laboratory professionals to aspire to.

ASCLS is interested in hearing your voice, so don't miss the opportunity to offer your input. Comments can be forwarded to Sharon Strauss, ASCLS-PA President at SStra610@aol.com or by phone at 610-927-4165.

Scholarship Updates

Are you aware that in the last 2 years, not one student applied for the ASCLS-PA Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship for \$1000?

In most years, we don't get applicants for any of the scholarships! We are ready to write a check out to any student who meets the criteria!

Check out the ASCLS-PA Website for eligibility requirements at www.ascls-pa.org.

Scholarship	Who is eligible	Amount	Deadline
Dolbey Scholarship	Check the ASCLS-PA Website for details!	\$3000	Feb 29, 2008
ASCLS-PA Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship		\$1000	Feb 15, 2008
Continuing Education Assistanceship		\$250	None
Alpha-Mu Tau Fraternity Scholarships		Up to \$2000	Apr 1, 2008



ASCLS-PA Member Profile: Meet Leah Henderson Campbell

Submitted by Ruth Negley,
Newsletter Editor



Meet Leah Henderson Campbell, our newest member on the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors. Leah lives in Mechanicsburg, PA with her husband, Patrick and cat, Quincy. I spoke to Leah for about an hour on an icy night in December to find out what she does in the clinical laboratory and how she made her way there.

Twenty-six year old Leah is a graduate from Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC's) MLT program in 2002, and most recently, a graduate from Penn State College of Technology with a BS in applied health studies. Upon completion of her BS, she became certified as a CLS(NCA) and H(ASCP).

Leah has worked at Hershey Medical Center for over 7 years now, starting out as a generalist in the clinical laboratory and most recently as a tech in the HCT Hematopoietic Stem Cell Therapy Lab. I interviewed Leah to find out what her typical day is like, and to find out what message she has for all of you out there who may be wondering what other options are available for laboratory professionals.

Q: What do you like best about working in the clinical laboratory?

A: I like that it is science and math based and love the technological aspect of this field. Every day at my job is different and challenging. After transferring from the core lab to the HCT lab, I found that I enjoy the patient contact. Part of my day involves assisting the physician with the transplant at the patient bedside. These are patients who have been diagnosed with leukemia, multiple myeloma, hodgekin's and non-hodgekin's lymphoma and several other disorders. That face-to-face contact with the patient really makes me feel like I participate in their diagnosis and treatment.

Q: What is it like for the patients who are donating and receiving stem cell transplants?

A: Being a donor used to involve anesthesia and surgery to extract the bone marrow. Now, a growth hormone called GCSF (growth colony stimulating factor) is given to the donor, which will stimulate the stem cells to proliferate and spill over into the peripheral blood. Removing those stem cells is accomplished by using a simple aphaeresis technique, which is much less invasive to the donor. The transplant recipient will receive the stem cells much like getting a transfusion. It takes about 30-60 minutes to infuse the cells into a central line.

Q: What happens behind the scenes in the laboratory to prepare the stem cells for the recipient?

A: When the stem cells have been extracted from the donor, the cells must be counted by using flow cytometry. Stem cells will have the CD34 marker, and 2 million CD34 cells must be collected from the donor. If the number is lower, the donor must come back the next day for additional aphaeresis. The stem cells must be separated into several bags to sustain them until used. Also, blood borne pathogen testing must be performed before the cells can be given to the patient. These disease tests are the same as those tested in donor blood.

Q: What is your typical day like?

A: My hours are Mon-Friday from 9am-5pm. I work behind the scenes preparing the donor cells for transplant, and then assist the physician with the transplant at the patient's bedside. I feel like I have the best of both worlds; the technical part that occurs in the laboratory and the patient contact. Special training to work in the HCT lab takes about 3 months.

Q: Why did you decide to continue your education to earn your BS degree?

A: Although I loved working in the core lab as a generalist, I wanted to expand my options and to open doors for more opportunities. I do recommend that other lab professionals consider continuing their education, especially because this field changes every day. There is constantly new technology to learn and you will quickly get behind if you don't update.

Q: What is the most difficult thing about going to school while working full-time?

A: It would have to be balancing everything; a job, classes, and family life. I started out at a local university as a commuter, but after one semester, I knew that it would not work out. I found that by taking distance education courses on-line, I was able to accomplish the balance. Later, I was able to transfer to a day-shift position because of the flexibility of on-line courses.

Q: Why did you join ASCLS-PA....what do you get out of it?

A: I decided to join after I completed my BS, because I had more time to become involved. I especially wanted to get
(cont on page 9)

Message from the Region II Director

Mary Ann McLane



From a regional and national perspective, there are many dates to put on your calendar.

The spring **Region II Council Meeting** will be in Baltimore on **Saturday, March 29, 2008**. This will also be the **5th annual regional student case study competition**, PACE-approved for cont. ed. credit for those who attend. Details will soon be on the region II website, <http://www.asclsregion2.org>. Students, please get information on how to register for this competition from Keely Pierchalski, keelskil@aol.com. The 3 winners will receive cash prizes and the top winner will also get an ASCLS membership renewal, compliments of Region II.

The **ASCLS Interim meeting of the Board of Directors** will be **Sunday March 16, 2008** in Washington DC, followed by the 2-day Legislative Symposium. The latter is a marvelous experience in being an American and an empowered clinical lab professional! Especially in an election year!

The last full week in **April, 4/20-08 to 4/26/08**, is **National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week**. It truly becomes a golden opportunity for you to put the FACE on the lab profession. While trying to decide on what special events to have in the lab itself, it is also critical for everyone to do those things which will let your fellow colleagues, like the nursing staff, residents, physicians, PTs, OTs, etc, etc, to visit so you can PUT THE FACE to the results you generate and the care you take to practice your skills. It is also a great time to get the most enthusiastic people-person in your group and finagle the schedule so he/she can be at the lab display in the front lobby the entire week! We as a lab community have absolutely no right to complain that "no one knows what I do", especially during this week!

The **2008 ASCLS Annual Meeting** will be **July, 7/29/08 to 8/2/08** in Washington DC. In Pennsylvania, there is discussion of getting a bus together for a day-trip. See the ASCLS-PA website for more information soon. Those who attend on Friday 8/1/08 will have their lunch provided by ASCLS for free. This is a great opportunity for you to experience rubbing shoulders with tens of thousands of lab professionals from around the country and world, all with the same passion for this profession as you. You'll also get the chance to see/hear me running for ASCLS President ☐-Elect!

(Campbell Interview cont. from page 8)

more exposure to legislative issues that are often unknown to those who work in the lab and who don't belong to a professional organization. Shortly after I joined, I was elected to the Board of Directors. Some of my activities are attending the quarterly Board meetings and assisting Mary Beth Miele as co-chair of the upcoming 2008 Annual Spring Meeting to be held in Philadelphia in April 2008.

Q: What do you see as the biggest challenge of working in the clinical laboratory?

A: Career advancement. Many techs feel like they are stuck in a rut and complain that there is no career advancement. I think they really need to research how to get more education and just do it! Anyone can advance if they want it to happen.

Q: What are your future goals?

A: I would like to get a Masters Degree in adult education. I would really love to teach MLT or CLS students at the community college or university level. This fall, I had the opportunity to teach a phlebotomy course at HACC and I am hooked!

Q: What message do you have for new graduates?

A: To stay involved with your career by attending continuing education regularly. I would tell them to learn new things and to see where life will take them.

If anyone is inspired by Leah's accomplishments and would like contact her, she can be reached at keystonecls@hotmail.com. Leah's husband has recently accepted a new position, so they will be moving to Chicago Illinois in a few weeks. We from ASCLS-PA would like to wish her well and to say thanks for her contributions to our profession!

Check out LABS ARE VITAL!

www.labsarevital.com

Find out how to make your voice as a laboratory professional heard!



Leadership Development News

Submitted By Mary Gourley,
Leadership Development Chair



Leadership Development News:

The first class of the **Leadership Academy** is now in mid-cycle and it's time to recruit the second class for a one year program beginning next July at the ASCLS 2008 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2008-2009 ASCLS Leadership Academy. The program is designed to foster leadership skills and commitment to ASCLS in its members.

The one-year program, designed for a select group of ASCLS members, includes a variety of learning opportunities. Participants will:

1. Attend leadership workshops in conjunction with the 2008 ASCLS Annual Meeting in Washington, CD (July 29-August 2, 2008), the 2009 Legislative Symposium in Washington, DC (mid-March 2008), and the 2009 ASCLS Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL (July 21-25, 2009).
2. Participate in a series of conference calls to develop and perfect leadership skills.
3. Complete a Leadership Academy Program Project and present findings at the 2009 ASCLS Annual Meeting.

Nominations to be considered are individuals:

1. Who have held, or currently hold, leadership positions within constituent society organizations and have a desire to further develop their leadership skills.
2. Whose leadership potential has been recognized by constituent society officers, board members or others in leadership roles.
3. Who have demonstrated leadership potential by participating in leadership activities within constituent society organizations.

Participants will be chosen based on recommendations, commitment to the program and ASCLS, and written responses to essay questions.

All who are interested can find additional information on the ASCLS website at <http://www.ascls.org/members/Academy/index.asp> including an application form and instructions. Completed applications must be received by **March 31, 2008** to be considered for the 2008-2009 class.

This program will prepare one for leadership roles by enhancing leadership skills for both the workplace and professional societies. This is a win-win situation for all members who wish to advance their professional positions.

(President's Message cont. from page 1)
MRSA in 24 hours soon enough to prevent hospital acquired infections, or should these tests be performed "on demand" 24/7 by PCR? This is a question many laboratories are struggling to answer. We were just contacted by one of our nursing homes to ask that we provide a microbiologist to sit on their infection control committee which meets 4 times per year. If we are contacted by all of our nursing homes and ambulatory surgical facilities, the increase in work and responsibilities will be overwhelming. I will hardly have time for anything else.

Your Infection Control Department is probably scrambling to meet the deadlines since the timeline for implementation by hospitals and nursing homes is very aggressive. Plans for implementation must have been submitted to the Department of Health (DOH) for review by December 31, 2007. In addition, by February 14, 2008 hospitals must report health care-associated infection data to the CDC National Health

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

Care Safety Network (NHSN).

The recent media hype regarding MRSA has educated consumers about this issue, but in addition, is having a large financial and workload impact on Pennsylvania's laboratories. By passing this law, Pennsylvania is one of the states taking the lead in this endeavor. Now, other states are studying our law and will likely follow our lead



By-Laws Amendment

Submitted by Mary Gourley,
Leadership Development Chair



Did you know that ASCLS-PA is governed by a set of by-laws? A complete set of the bylaws can be located on our Web site at www.ascls-pa.org (click on "documents").

At the Fall Board of Directors meeting held November 10, 2007, the Board approved the following amendment which would add a First Year Professional as a voting member of the Board of Directors. The proposed amendment is printed below with changes in **BOLD!** The amendment will be brought to the House of Delegates in April for action. The amendment requires a 2/3 majority vote to be adopted. All members are invited to attend this meeting for input. Please send any comments to the ASCLS-PA President, Sharon Strauss at SStra610@aol.com or by phone at 610-927-4165.

ASCLS-PA BYLAWS PROPOSED AMENDMENT

ARTICLE XI Board of Directors

A. Authority:

The affairs of the Society shall be governed by the Board of Directors. The directors shall serve as members of the House of Delegates and shall represent the Society when the House of Delegates is not in session.

B. Composition:

The number of voting directors shall be **thirteen (13)** – the President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, and six (6) Directors at Large elected by the House of Delegates in a manner prescribed by the Board of Directors of the Society. There shall be one (1) voting Student Director **and one voting First Year Professional Director**, each appointed by the President of the Society.

Each director shall serve a term of three (3) years or until a successor is elected with the exception of the Student **and First Year Professional Directors**, who shall serve for a term on one (1) year. **The Student Director, if eligible, shall move into the position of First Year Professional Director.**

A board member may be eligible for re-election, except the Student **and First Year Professional Directors**, but may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. The House of Delegates shall elect by majority vote the appropriate number of directors each year at its annual session.

A vacancy occurring among the elected members of the Board of Directors or in the position of immediate past president shall be filled in a manner defined in the Regulations of this Society.

C. Quorum:

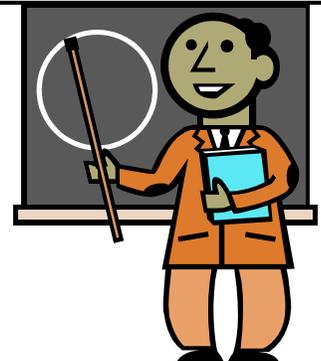
A quorum shall consist of the Chair or an alternate plus **six** other voting members of the Board of Directors.



2008 Student Review Session!

The 2008 ASCLS-PA Student Review Session is currently in the planning stages.

For more details, watch our Website at www.ascls-pa.org for updates later in the spring!





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

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

Winter 2008 ASCLS-PA Board of Directors at RACC	January 26, 2008
The 2008 Legislative Symposium in Washington DC	March 18-18, 2008
2008 ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting	April 29-30, 2008
2008 ASCLS National Annual Meeting	July 29-Aug 2, 2008

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