



# The Pennsylvania Newsletter

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

Vol. 30 No. 4

Summer 2017



## Message from the President

**Jean Buchenhorst**  
ASCLS-PA President

Greetings fellow ASCLS-PA members!

The Philadelphia Science Fair was a great opportunity for community involvement! The ASCLS-PA for the second time hosted a booth at the Philadelphia Science Fair on Saturday, April 29th. Stephanie Noblit registered ASCLS-PA for the booth; thank you Stephanie! It was a warm and extremely busy day that allowed volunteers to give exposure to the clinical laboratory science field and what it entails. Four short activities were available—cell sculpture (thank you Travis!), UA reagent strips (thank you Marianne!), pipetting liquids (blue and yellow makes green) and streaking plates. This couldn't have been done without volunteers to staff the booth—thank you Stephanie Noblit, Michelle Nguyen, Anna Marie Pavia, Claire Verrico, Erin Henry, Gabriella Peterson, Khadija Derrouche, Nassouh Mourabet, Emine Karamente, Travis Bicher and Clarrisa! The volunteers make the event possible and the day enjoyable. Please make a mental note of the Philadelphia Science Festival for next year!

There is an enthusiasm brought by new ideas, meeting new people and catching up with friends. The ASCLS-PA Educators' Scientific Assembly meeting was held in Reading again this year, and I came away with a few new ideas and new connections from the networking opportunities. Ed Beitz did a great job getting the meeting invitation out to a larger group, running the meeting, going over student enrollment at state programs and student employment as well as presenting highlights from the Clinical Labora-



tory Educator's Conference (CLEC). There was also a guest presenter, Dr. Arthur Crist, a MT by training then who went on for a doctorate, who reviewed testing for Zika virus.

It's now the time to renew your membership! There are many ways to get return investment for your ASCLS membership—including meetings/conferences, networking and activities like the Philadelphia Science Fair. There are opportunities for Leadership development—there are many committees that allow the ASCLS-PA to offer meetings and activities. Advocacy is another benefit of membership; the ASCLS-PA for the past few years has sponsored members to travel to Legislative Days in Washington, DC, to train to talk with staffers of our US Senators and Representatives about issues affecting the laboratories. Continuing education is another benefit; the

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

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*Past President: Michael Osborne*

*Editor: Joshua Cannon Editorial Staff: The ASCLS-PA Board of Directors*

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



## Another ASCLS-PA Conference is in the Books!

**Scott Aikey**  
ASCLS-PA Annual Meeting Chair

If you missed it, you missed a lot!

ASCLS-PA held its annual continuing education meeting in May, 2017 at the DoubleTree hotel in Plymouth Meeting, PA. There were 20 sessions offered during the one-day meeting as well as dedicated exhibit time with our industry partners. The meeting had a variety of Chemistry, Blood Banking Microbiology, Hematology/Coagulation, and General Sessions for attendees to choose from. We could not have been happier about the turnout. Nearly 125 attendees came to the one-day meeting and 27 vendors exhibited their products. A list of the vendors who supported the meeting is listed below. In addition, a special thank you goes out to MediaLab, Inc. who was a Platinum Supporter and the winner of the ASCLS-PA Corporate Recognition Award.

The Society is already making plans for the 2018 Annual Spring Meeting and we hope that you all can make it!

- Advanced Instruments
- Agilent Technologies
- ARUP Laboratories
- AUDIT MicroControls, Inc.
- Azer Scientific
- BD
- Biofire Diagnostics
- bioMérieux, Inc.
- Cepheid
- CLSI
- Diagnostica Stago Inc.
- Fujirebio Diagnostics, Inc.
- Geisinger Health System
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- Medline Industries
- Meridian Bioscience

- Morrell Instruments Company
- Ortho Clinical Diagnostics
- Oxford Immunotec
- Qiagen
- Roche Diagnostics
- Sekisui Diagnostics
- Siemens Healthineers
- Viracor Eurofins



Members of ASCLS-PA at the 2017 ASCLS-PA Annual Business Meeting in Plymouth Meeting, PA

### **President's Message continued from cover**

ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting is another great source of CE. The Annual Meeting of the ASCLS will be in San Diego this year; yet another event where multiple CE hours can be earned while networking. Nassouh Mourabet, the student representative for the ASCLS-PA Delaware Valley Chapter won a scholarship to help fund his trip to the national meeting. If you are interested in attending the national and legislative day meetings, there are possible sources of funding to tap into. Publications, such as this newsletter and Clinical Laboratory News, and promotion of the profession by ASCLS are benefits as well.

Again, now is the time to renew your membership! Thank you!



## A Long Overdue Tribute

**Barbara Snyderman**  
ASCLS Past President

Roma Brown, ASCLS President (1970-1971) passed away last fall after a short illness but a long life filled with professionalism, dedication to medical laboratory science and her dear friend, Patsy Bering. Roma was 88 years young.

Most of you reading this article are thinking “Roma who?” as you did not have the immense pleasure of knowing her or being mentored by her. Whether she was working in the laboratory, teaching or doing taxes in her “retired” years, Roma maintained the highest standards in whatever she did.

Roma was president of our national organization during a tumultuous time in the profession. ASCP and ASCLS had entered a lawsuit against each other over “control” of the profession. One outcome of the lawsuit was the formation of the National Certification Agency by members of ASCLS, which required certificants to gather continuing education credits. It was considered certification by the profession for the profession. Patsy said that Roma felt we lost too much in the lawsuit and it didn’t settle much of anything. “It seems like we have been battling the same fight since the 50s,” Patsy said.

ASCLS and ASCLS-PA Past President Mary Ann McLane said “Roma, for years, used her skill for detail...during tax season. It required the continuing education related to each year’s new tax laws and she never groused her need to go to such con ed. In fact, she considered it a requirement to give the best service to those who came to her.”

From the fall, 2014 *ASCLS-PA Newsletter*:

Roma’s professional career began in Omaha, Nebraska in a small one-person laboratory. She performed the Folin-Wu glucose test, along with BMR, manual RBC, WBC and hemoglobin tests. She also did EKG tests “until I was bored and begged for time off.” She volunteered—as in “not paid”—to prepare tissue slides for a research laboratory for a few years. Roma followed that with a career in hematology at Clarkson Hospital where she rose from technologist to supervisor and eventually lab coordinator. At the conclusion of her ASMT Presidency, she served as Program Director

for ASAHP, the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, to convene a conference on Certification in Allied Health Professions. At the conclusion of that project, she went to Temple University for a graduate degree—a Master’s in Clinical Laboratory Science. Roma became chair of the Medical Technology department at the University of Pennsylvania until that program was closed in 1980. Roma served as the acting director of the ASMT Education and Research Fund for two years.

ASCLS-PA Past President Mary Gourley said that “Roma and Patsy are women that I highly respect and consider to be among my mentors.” She also remembers the Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity dinner in Washington, DC and standing in the parking lot of the venue with them after the kitchen caught fire. Roma joked that Mary’s husband, a fire chief in Pittsburgh, wanted me to remember my installation into AMTF.”

Roma probably did not realize how many of us she influenced during her career. Scott Aikey, ASCLS and ASCLS-PA Past President said that Roma and Patsy “have paved the way for future generations both in their personal as well as their professional lives.”

During my early days in ASCLS, I was fortunate enough to have known and worked with both Roma and Patsy. I remember Roma being thrilled at a student bowl competition in the Poconos, her outspoken nature (a good thing!) and her dedication to our profession.

Our young colleagues hear stories of the laboratory in decades gone by, but we rarely talk about the people like Roma who helped mold us into the laboratorians we are today. She will be missed a great deal by all who knew her.

\*\*\*If you would like to make a donation in Roma’s name, a scholarship fund has been set up in the Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity named the “Roma Brown and Patsy Bering Scholarship.” Contact Barbara Snyderman at [barbarasnyderman@gmail.com](mailto:barbarasnyderman@gmail.com) for more information.



## 2017 Legislative Day

**Sam Pasco**

ASCLS-PA Student Member

On March 20, I arrived at the Hilton Old Town Alexandria for the 2017 Legislative Symposium, organized by ASCLS, CLMA, ASCP, AMT, and AGT. At this conference, laboratory professionals from 47 states across the country, including Alaska and Hawaii, gathered to learn about government, lobbying, and the issues currently facing the laboratory. We heard from technologists and administrators about the challenges facing the laboratory, as well as from lobbyists and Congressional staffers on how to successfully and effectively communicate concerns to lawmakers.

The issue of most concern at this meeting related to the establishment of the new Clinical Lab Fee Schedule (CLFS) under the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) of 2014, which requires that payment rates and test volumes from various laboratories be reported to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). However, virtually all hospital laboratories, physician office laboratories, and over half of independent laboratories are not required to report their data. Thus, the CLFS could be established on vastly incomplete data that represents only \$2 billion of the total \$7 billion Medicare spends on laboratory services each year. The other main issue was the anticipated shortage of clinical laboratory personnel in the workforce, with academic programs producing 5,000 graduates per year in a field with anticipated growth of 12,000 new professionals per year to meet growing demand.

The following day, Alton Kennedy, Stephanie Noblit, and I arrived at Capitol Hill for congressional visits as the delegates from Pennsylvania. It was a bustling day on the Hill, as President Trump was visiting with House members to lobby for the first attempt at healthcare reform. Unfortunately, we were unable to schedule meetings with House members from Pennsylvania, but we did have meetings with staffers from Senators Bob Casey's and Pat Toomey's offices. We brought forward our complaints regarding PAMA, and urged the senators to extend the data collection and reporting periods by one year so that a true market-based CLFS could be established. We also described the growing demand for medical laboratory professionals, and pushed for Congress to use the Veterans Health Administration to recruit and train citizens seeking to enter the clinical laboratory workforce.

I had a fantastic experience at this year's Symposium. My time in Washington has opened my eyes to the legislative process and how to make your voice heard, as well as given me a peak into the complexities of the government's role in healthcare. I highly recommend that other students take advantage of this and similar opportunities in order to network, gain experience, and make a difference.

## ASCLS-PA Welcomes New Members

ASCLS-PA would like to welcome all the new members who have joined our organization between March 1, 2017 and May 31, 2017. If you work with one of these new members, please welcome them to the Society and encourage them to become active!

Archnaben Amin	Bensalem	PA
Jessica Stanton	Coatesville	PA
Tina Stover	York	PA
Terri McElhattan	Wapwallopen	PA
Ronald Livingston	Harrisburg	PA
Maureen Carrozza	Mullica Hill	NJ
Francine Dennis-Payton	Phoenixville	PA
Joann Kerns	Conshohocken	PA
Christine Palermo	Hatboro	PA
Davina Addie	Tucker	AR
Krystal Johnson	Conway	AR

# ASCLS National Meeting in San Diego, CA

**July 30  
through  
August 3  
2017**



# Motions from Latest Board Meeting

**Travis Bicher**  
ASCLS-PA Secretary

## Email Motions

**March 29, 2017**

**EMAIL MOTION 1:** Moved by Aikey, seconded by Bicher, that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors approve additional funding for Stephanie Noblit and Sam Pasco to cover travel and 50% of hotel costs to attend the ASCLS Legislative Day.

Be it noted: Since there were only 2 people who attended, there is enough money in the budgeted line item to reimburse this additional expense, similar to what occurred last year.

Yes: 8 Bicher, Strauss, Derrouche, Cannon, Osborne, Aikey, Downes, and Falsone

No: 0

Not Voting: Stetz, Buchenhorst                      Motion carried.

**EMAIL MOTION 2:** Moved by Aikey, seconded by Bicher, that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors approve a \$200 gift, from O&A, for Barbara Snyderman, as she completes her term on the ASCLS Board of Directors, to welcome her back to the state society.

Yes: 8 Bicher, Strauss, Derrouche, Cannon, Osborne, Aikey, Downes, and Falsone

No: 0

Not Voting: Stetz, Buchenhorst                      Motion carried.

## Board Meeting Motions

**DoubleTree Suites, Plymouth Meeting, PA**

**May 7, 2017**

**MOTION 1:** Moved by Aikey, seconded by Strauss, that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors approve the Board Meeting agenda dated May 7th, 2017. Motion carried.

**MOTION 2:** Moved by Downes, seconded by Strauss, that that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors approve the Secretary's Report from the February 4th, 2017, meeting. Motion carried.

**MOTION 3:** Moved by Strauss, seconded by Cannon, that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors accept the resignation of Ann Spjut from the office of President-Elect. Motion carried.

**MOTION 4:** Moved by Bicher, seconded by Cannon, that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

## Annual Business Meeting Motions

**DoubleTree Suites, Plymouth Meeting, PA**

**May 7, 2017**

**MOTION 1:** Moved by Snyderman, seconded by Strauss, the ASCLS-PA members at the Annual Business Meeting

("ABM" for future motions) members approve the AMB agenda dated May 7th, 2017. Motion carried.

**MOTION 2:** Moved by Downes, seconded by Bicher, that the ABM approve the meeting minutes dated April 11th, 2016, as amended. Motion carried.

**MOTION 3:** Moved by Hunt, seconded by Bicher, that the ABM accept the Treasurer's FY16-17 Operating Fund Statement ending May 5th, 2017, and file for audit. Motion carried.

**MOTION 4:** Moved by Hunt, seconded by Franz, that the ABM accept the Treasurer's FY16-17 Scholarship Funds Statement ending May 5th, 2017, and file for audit. Motion carried.

**MOTION 5:** Moved by Gourley on behalf of the Bylaws Committee that the ABM amend the ASCLS-PA Bylaws, Article X, sections C.1, C.2, and C.3 by changing the name of the First Year Professional Director to New Professional and New Member Director. Motion carried.

**MOTION 6:** Moved by Gourley on behalf of the Bylaws Committee that the ABM amend the ASCLS-PA Bylaws Article X, section C.4 by deleting the word "elected" and the phrase "or in the position of immediate past president", such that the section will now read "A vacancy occurring among the members of the Board of Directors shall be filled in a manner defined in the Standard Operating Procedures of this Society." Motion carried.

**MOTION 7:** Moved by Snyderman, seconded by Hunt, that the ABM approve the use of \$300 from the Con Ed line item to fund 10 student ASCLS member registrations for the MLS/MLT Review Session. Motion carried.

**MOTION 8:** Moved by Hunt, seconded by Bicher, that the ASCLS-PA ABM members elect the slot of candidates by acclamation.

President: Barbara Snyderman

President Elect: Sharon Strauss

Board Director: Joshua Cannon                      Motion carried.

**MOTION 9:** Moved by Aikey, seconded by Hunt, that the ABM approve the funding of the Student Director to attend the ASCLS National Meeting in San Diego to include travel, 50% of hotel, and registration. Motion carried.

**MOTION 10:** Moved by Aikey, seconded by Franz, that the ABM approve the purchase of 3 gifts for the E&R Silent Auction at the ASCLS National Meeting in San Diego, with money to come out of O&A and expenditures not to exceed \$300. Motion carried.

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# 2017 ASCLS-PA MLS/MLT Review Session

**Khadidja Derrouche**  
ASCLS-PA Student Representative

**Nassouh Mourabet**  
ASCLS-PA Delaware Valley Student Representative



The journey from student to professional is coming to a close, and for many of us, the last step will be to take the ASCP BOC examination. An opportunity to put everything we've learned in the past to the test. However, the preparation can come with quite a bit of stress, so every year the MLS/MLT Review Session held by ASCLS-PA provides students and professionals a great opportunity to prepare themselves for the BOC exam, and this year was no different. Over 60 students and professionals attended this year's session from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and Delaware. Students, maybe for the first time, had the chance to meet future colleagues from different programs and were exposed to the great opportunities that ASCLS has to offer.

Dr. McLane started off the day by talking about her experience as a past national and state president of the Society. She mentioned how gratifying her time with the Society had been, and encouraged everyone there to be involved. She covered chemistry and urinalysis/body Fluids by going over questions similar to those on the ASCP exam. She stressed the necessity to understand pathophysiology in order to tackle the more difficult questions. Next, we had fellow University of Delaware colleague, Dr. Maser, covering coagulation and hematology, switching between question and answer format and lecturing big picture concepts. Tabitha Kern focused

on the basics of Immunology. Jean Buchenhorst covered the vast subject of microbiology, including bacteriology, virology, parasitology, and mycology. Jennifer Slodysko managed to condense all of immunohematology into its most essential parts, and provided examples to help solidify our knowledge. Finally, Joshua Cannon provided us with all of the ins and outs of the exam, and the best tactics in order to pass.

Thank you to each one of the speakers for taking your time to help give back to the profession: Dr. Mary Ann McLane, Dr. Raelene Maser, Tabitha Kern, Jennifer Slodysko, and Jean Buchenhorst. Lastly, a special thanks to Joshua Cannon, who along with being our final speaker, gave me all the blueprints to run a smooth and successful review session.

The review session took some time and effort to set up; making fliers, contacting speakers, setting up lunch, and preparing booklets could occasionally feel overwhelming with school assignments and work taking up so much of our time. However, those efforts seem minuscule in retrospect against the gratifying experience it gave us and the chances it gave our fellow MLS/MLTs achieving our certification successfully.

To everyone who attended the session, we would like to wish you the best of luck on your exam!

## *Motions... continued from page 5*

**MOTION 11:** Moved by Downes, seconded by Snyderman, that the ABM fund Mourabet's attendance at the ASCLS National Meeting in San Diego at a level equal to that of a delegate (\$500), to come from Professional & Public Relations.

Be it noted: There was \$500 budgeted in P&P Relations that was never used. Motion carried.

**MOTION 12:** Moved by Snyderman, seconded by Bicher, that the ABM approve the following list of delegates to the 2017 ASCLS House of Delegates:

- At Large Delegates: Katie Franz, Mary Gourley, and Scott Aikey
- Alternate Delegate: Bill Hunt

Be it noted: The delegates will be funded \$500 each. Motion carried.

**MOTION 13:** Moved by Aikey, seconded by Beitz, that the

ABM approve the transfer of \$5,000 from the Contingency Fund to the FY17-18 Operating Fund Budget. Motion carried.

**MOTION 14:** Moved by Derrouche, seconded by Mourabet, that the ABM adopt the FY17-18 Operating Fund Budget as amended.

- \$1,000 removed from the ASCLS Delegate Fund, taking it to \$1,000.
- \$1,000 removed from the File Custodian line, taking it to \$0.
- \$400 removed from the Legislative Day Fund, taking it to \$600.
- \$3.52 added to O&A to balance things out, taking it to \$4003.52.

Motion carried.

**MOTION 15:** Moved by Bicher, seconded by Snyderman, that the ABM adjourn. Motion carried.



# ASCLS Recognizes Award Winners

**Mary M. Gourley**  
ASCLS-PA Awards Chair

At the 2017 ASCLS-PA Annual Meeting, the following awards were presented:

**EDWARD P. DOLBEY:** Jean Buchenhorst

**CORPORATE:** MediaLab

**KEENER MEMORIAL:** Scott Aikey; Travis Bicher, Joshua Cannon, Marianne Downes, Katie Franz, Michelle Nguyen, Sharon Strauss

**KEYS TO THE FUTURE:** Khadidja Derrouche, Gabriela Peterson, Jennifer Slodysko

**20-YEAR MEMBERSHIP:** Kara Breznak, Donna M. Broderick, Nancy Konopka, Nancy Stollemyer, Catherine Palicki

**SUSTAINED MEMBERSHIP:**

**65-yr** – Alice S. Boeshore; **50-yr** – Goldie Gross

**40-yr** – Eileen M. Benedict, Donna E. Bray, Cindy Evans, Barbara Snyderman, Sharon Strauss, Sandra M. Weiss

**35-yr** – Deborah L. Blecker-Shelly, Susan M. Fejka, Marianne E. Koons

**30-yr** – Hilary A. Barley, Loretta Nemchik, Lorraine Ruhl, George White

**Dolbey Undergraduate Scholarship:** Sam Pasco

Also recognized were the Omicron Sigma nominees from Pennsylvania:

**National Level:** Scott Aikey, William Hunt, Stephanie Noblit, Barbara Snyderman

**Regional Level:** Jean Buchenhorst, Ann Spjut, Sharon Strauss

**State:** Ed Bietz, Travis Bicher, Khadidja Derrouche, Marianne Downes, Katie Franz, Andy Huynh, Gabriela Peterson

Congratulations to all the award recipients.



Congratulations to Jean Buchenhorst, recipient of the 2017 Edward P. Dolbey Award!



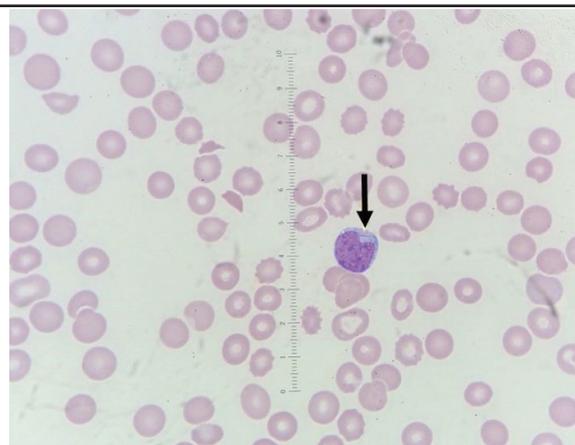
Sharon Strauss (left) and Barbara Snyderman (right) receiving 40-year Sustained Membership awards.



Leah Coppolino from MediaLab, Inc. accepts the ASCLS-PA Corporate Recognition Award for being a Platinum Meeting Sponsor



Identify the cell at the arrow. The answer will be posted to the ASCLS-PA Facebook page approximately one week after newsletters have been mailed.





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## Coming Events

**ASCLS National Meeting and Clinical Lab Expo  
July 30–August 3, 2017 (San Diego, CA)**

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

To get involved, simply email Jean Buchenhorst  
at [Jean.Buchenhorst@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:Jean.Buchenhorst@uphs.upenn.edu)



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numerous updates and information on the web site about upcoming meetings