



The Pennsylvania Newsletter

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

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Message from the President

Jean Buchenhorst
ASCLS-PA President

Thank you for your membership! The strength of a professional organization is in its members; members who share common interests and experiences. My husband and I recently travelled to France and while in Paris took the time to visit the Pasteur Institute Museum. It was amazing to see Louis Pasteur's laboratory with equipment and some of the bacteria strains he used in his experiments. When in Atlanta at the ASCLS National Meeting, I took the trip out to the CDC Museum, located on the CDC complex. There are historic objects and story boards on public health topics, including a container of air conditioning fluid from the Legionella investigation in 1976. I hope when members attend the upcoming meeting

in Philadelphia, they take advantage of the opportunity to visit the Mutter Museum and Franklin Institute. It is fascinating to explore the history of the work we do every day.

I hope you can take advantage of meetings, a great opportunity for members especially this year since the National ASCLS meeting will be in Philadelphia. I encourage you to get involved in your local chapter and attend state meetings, the next state board meeting will be Saturday, February 6th. During the holiday season the Student Chapter of the ASCLS is having a Yankee Candle fundraising sale, please check out their website and see if there's anything that will fill your shopping list; Group Number: 990072787 . <https://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com/>

I hope to see you in the New Year—Happy Holidays!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE – PA 2016 MLS/MLT Student Review Session



Date: June 4th, 2016

Location: University of the Sciences (Philadelphia, PA)

Agenda: Review of Chemistry & Urinalysis, Hematology & Coagulation, Microbiology, Immunohematology, Immunology and Test Taking Tips

Fee: \$30 – \$60 (includes lunch and handouts)

For a registration form and more information, please email Joshua Cannon at JXC313@jefferson.edu

Students and working professionals are both welcome to attend this review session.

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

President: Jean Buchenhorst

President-Elect: vacant

Past President: Michael Osborne

Editor: Scott Aikey

Editorial Staff: The ASCLS-PA Board of Directors

Website: www.ascls-pa.org



Make Plan to attend the ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting – Your Best Value for CE!

Scott Aikey

ASCLS-PA Annual Meeting Chair

Want to find out how to take your job seriously and make the workplace fun? Then come to the 81st Annual Meeting of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State Society of American Medical Technologists. The meeting will be held April 12-13, 2016 at the Red Lion Hotel in Harrisburg, PA (formerly the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East.)

There will be 26 sessions offered across the two days at this meeting as well as dedicated exhibit time with our industry partners. And don't forget the breakfast, lunch and snacks along the way to keep you fueled throughout the day!

Come to the meeting and expand your knowledge about a variety of health care related topics. Take time to meet our speakers and ask them about their career paths. Find out how your position in the laboratory services can serve as a stepping stone into other positions within health care and beyond. Come and network with your colleagues and industry partners.

This 2016 program has 26 hours of PACE approved continuing education credits planned over the two day meeting. Three meeting rooms will be used each day. On Tuesday, day one, Chemistry, Blood Banking and General Sessions will be offered. On Wednesday, day two, Microbiology, Hematology/Coagulation and additional General Sessions will be presented. Each day will also start with a plenary session. On Tuesday, ASCLS President Barbara Snyderman will kick off the meeting with her talk, "A Look Back at Laboratories of the Past Century - WAY back!" On Wednesday, Elissa Passiment will present "The Public's Perception of Our Quality: Are We Succeeding?" You do not want to miss these two Plenary Sessions.

Vendor exhibits will also be part of the meeting. New this year, we have scheduled dedicated exhibit time for you to be able to interact with the vendors. Dedicated times are: 7:30-8:30am, 10:45-11:45am, and 12:15-1:45pm each day. If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact Mike Osborne at: Michael.R.Osborne@questdiagnostics.com.

Near the beginning of March, the program will be finalized and mailed. This printed program will include all the session descriptions as well as the registration form. ASCLS-PA and PASSAMT are pleased to offer special registration rates to members. Daily rates are as follows: Regular member rate - \$95; Non-member rate - \$130; Student member rate - \$25; and Student non-member \$40. Continental Breakfast and Buffet Lunch are included in your daily registration. Registration begins at 7:30 AM both days. Registration for the meeting can be paid by check or Mastercard or VISA. Discounted lodging rates (\$111/night) are available by calling 717-939-7841 and indicating that you are attending the "American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science-PA" meeting.

For updated information about the annual meeting, please check our web site, www.ascls-pa.org. If you would like to serve as a moderator at the meeting, please contact Mary Beth Miele at mmiele@hmc.psu.edu. We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting where you can enjoy outstanding continuing education and take advantage of networking opportunities with colleagues in Pennsylvania and neighboring states.

ASCLS-PA members and those interested in joining are invited on to the House of Delegates on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the hotel. We have a lot of opportunities for you to become involved in your profession. Our society is committed to helping you make the connections you need and to participate in legislative and continuing education opportunities. Come and engage in our future, make a difference!

2016 Annual Meeting Planning Committee

General Chair: Scott Aikey

Program Co-Chairs: Mary Beth Miele

Rebecca Falsone

Vendor Chair: Michael Osborne

Registration Chair: Sharon Strauss

PACE Coordinator: Katie Franz

PSSAMT contact: Debra Smeal



CMP (Credential Maintenance Program) Your Ticket to Demonstrating Continued Professional Competency

DID YOU KNOW...?

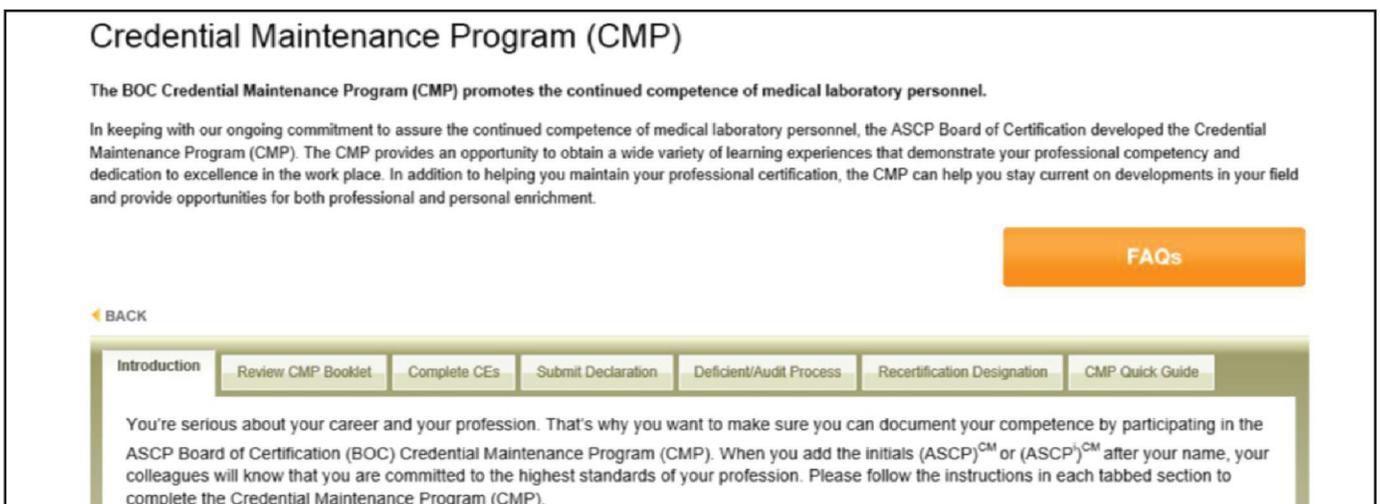
- You are no longer credentialed if you don't participate in the BOC Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) by the end of the three year validity period (i.e., the 3 year period following your credential date).
- CMP is mandatory for ASCP credentials earned since 2004 and ASCPi international credentials earned since 2012.
- Maintaining your certification costs only \$0.07 a day!
- Since the formation of the ASCP BOC in 2009, all former NCA credentials are now expired and no longer valid.
- Individuals whose ASCP credentials have expired can reactivate them without taking an exam by completing the CMP process within 10 years of the date the credential lapsed.
- Individuals whose NCA credentials have expired can reactivate at any time without taking an exam by completing the CMP process and paying the reinstatement fee.
- Individuals awarded the MT(ASCP) credential prior to 2004, can obtain the MLS(ASCP)^{CM} credential without taking an exam by completing the CMP process on a voluntary basis
- Individuals awarded the MP(ASCP) credential prior to 2004, can obtain the MB(ASCP)^{CM} credential without taking an exam by completing the CMP process on a voluntary basis.

CMP is one of the cornerstones of the BOC. This program recognizes that a very important aspect of professionalism is the need to demonstrate continued competency throughout a medical laboratory career, as well as a commitment to excellence in the work place. As of 2012, all ASCP BOC credentials, including international credentials, require a minimum number of continuing education credits in the field of certification every three years in order to retain the credential.

Laboratory professionals who participate in CMP demonstrate their commitment to excellence in patient care. Participation in this program also provides employers with documentation of an employee's professional development and the activities they completed to remain current in their field of clinical practice for use in job performance reviews or accrediting agency reviews.

All of the information you need to know about the CMP program can found on the BOC website:

www.ascp.org/cmp





The Pope and Me

William Hunt

ASCLS Secretary

When it was announced that the Pope was coming to Philadelphia the weekend of September 26th and 27th, I thought the traffic and congestion around the Parkway was going to be a mess...and I was glad I didn't work at Hahnemann Hospital. Then like torture, one announcement after another came out from the city. There would be more than 2 million pilgrims. Where would they all stay? SEPTA would not be running regular train schedules on Friday through Monday, and subway stops in center city were curtailed, and bus routes were all diverted. No drive zones were announced from Spring Garden to South Streets, and from the Delaware River to the Schuylkill River, which then was expanded all the way to 38th street. Multiple streets were declared emergency access with all streets cleared of cars and metal barriers were installed. The areas where the Pope would be traveling were behind cement barriers.

The "statistical" calculation on how many pilgrims would get sick in Philadelphia was expecting to overwhelm the emergency departments. Emergency overflow areas were identified and set up. The hospitals in the immediate zones were emptied of non-critical patients. Outpatient visits were cancelled on Friday and Monday and moved to other days.

Instead of the expected security zone in the immediate area of the Pope, we were suddenly faced with 2 of the main Center City hospitals of Penn, plus a Rehabilitation institution in the "no drive zone." What is a hospital to do? The staff was told they were not going to be able to get in or go home...where would the personnel stay? At least at Pennsylvania Hospital there were hundreds of full size blow up mattresses. I was lucky that a colleague, who lived 3 blocks from the hospital, let me stay at their home for four days. What is a laboratory to do when key assays are centralized? The "sneaker" transport system was born to deal with samples from Pennsylvania Hospital (PAH), Penn Rittenhouse Square and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. To minimize the number of staff required to stay overnight, the laboratory switched from 8 hour shifts to 12 hour shifts for 4 days.

By Thursday the 25th, we already knew that there weren't 2 million people coming to the city. By Friday afternoon, the city felt empty. Apparently, telling everyone that they can't work on Friday and Monday turned into a 4 day getaway for many in Philadelphia. By Saturday morning and my first walk at 9 AM across the city, the only people out were the National Guard on each corner and a lot of metal barriers. The Emergency Room stayed empty for 4 days along with much of the hospital. To entertain staff, there were movie nights, popcorn, and trivia games. The football game on Sunday pre-empted the Papal mass on the Parkway - a sign of how bizarre the Eagles have been playing this year?

The weather was beautiful. My staff swore I would be arrested crossing the city with a big cooler with Biohazard all over it. I walked from 8th to 34th Street and back 4 times through two secure zones. I was only asked once what was in the cooler...when the National Guard person in his Humvee on the South Street Bridge asked if my lunch was in there.

The plus to the walk was that it was great exercise and it got me out the hospital, but everyone was walking. Cars were so rare that kids were playing in the downtown streets. The big negative for the city was that so many people just stayed away and in many cases far away. The financial hit to businesses and the hospital was quite large.

My closest encounter to the Pope was just after the above photo was taken as I was crossing the South Street Bridge to HUP on Sunday afternoon. I was passed by a flatbed truck with a disassembled Pope-mobile on the way to the Schuylkill Expressway and then to the airport for its flight home to Rome. In retrospect I got a great deal of work done and after 12 hours had a great deal of fun hanging out in center city for 4 days.

While the city never encountered the volume of people and certainly not the volume of sick patients, all the planning that went on for a year certainly paid off and the event went off without a hitch!



It's our Right!

Stephanie Noblit

ASCLS-PA Government Affairs

It's almost that time again! Every year in March, the ASCLS hosts its Legislative Symposium. The Legislative Symposium is a two day event held in Washington, DC and its purpose is to get medical laboratory science professionals on Capitol Hill to lobby for our profession. The first day is spent in a daylong workshop where you are taught what the issues are and how to lobby. On the second day, you get to head to Capitol Hill where you get to put those lobbying skills to the test during appointments with your senators and representatives. Because the Legislative Symposium is so important, ASCLS-PA has decided to pay the registration fee to attend the symposium for the first 8 people agreeing to attend. This year the Legislative Symposium is March 14-15, 2015. Registration for the event opens in December. The registration fee is \$205 until February 15 and \$260 after that. Accommodations are being held at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town in Alexandria, VA and ASCLS usually offers attendees a discount on room reservations. Please consider attending and help us educate our Pennsylvania Congressmen. If you are interested please send an email to snoblitms@gmail.com by February 1, 2016. This is a great opportunity, so don't miss out!

At this year's legislative symposium we will be continuing where we left off last year. We will be educating our representatives and senators about the workforce shortage for the laboratory profession and the need for more clinical lab education programs. Last year at the legislative symposium, we proposed the idea for a new bill that would help create education programs in allied health professionals that are facing a workforce shortage. In the months after the legislative symposium, ASCLS's lobbyist, Patrick Cooney, was able to work with Congresswomen Renee Elmers (NC-R) and get her to become a potential champion for this bill. Congresswoman Elmers is a member of the Health subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce committee and was a nurse prior to getting into politics. Our lobbyist is also working with Congresswoman Yvette Clark (NY-D) to become a potential House democrat sponsor. We are still in need of a senate sponsor, preferably from the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. Our own Senator Bob Casey is being looked at as a potential champion for this bill on the senate side.

We have a responsibility to educate congress about our profession. The decisions they make on the Hill impact us every day in the lab and these decisions affect our patients as well. Come join us on the Hill this year and help make a difference!

NEED A SCHOLARSHIP?

Did you know that ASCLS-PA offers a graduate and an undergraduate Scholarship every year, but most years no one applies for them?

Edward P. Dolbey Graduate Scholarship:

\$2000

Deadline 2/15/16

ASCLS-PA Undergraduate Scholarship:

\$1500

Deadline 2/28/16

Check out the ASCLS-PA website for more details and for the application

<http://www.ascls-pa.org/scholarships.html>

Follow us on Facebook



For more information, visit us on our website www.ascls-pa.org



Call for ASCLS-PA Award Nominations

Mary M. Gourley
ASCLS-PA Bylaws Chair

Nominations are now being accepted for the following awards to be presented at the Annual Meeting in April 2016.

Dolbey Award – Member of the Year

Estolle Grosse Award

Corporate Award

Lifetime Achievement Award

Each nomination is to be accompanied by a short essay by the nominator explaining the reason as to why the nominee is deserving of the award.

The president and the Board of Directors are responsible for nominations for the Key to the Future Award. The president is responsible for submitting names for the Omicron Sigma Award to both ASCLS and to the state Awards Chair by the deadlines.

Deadline for receipt of nomination forms is FEBRUARY 1, 2016. Please submit completed nominations electronically to Mary Gourley at m.gourley@verizon.net by the deadline.

Nomination forms may be found on the website at the following web address: http://www.ascls-pa.org/uploads/2/4/2/1/24211033/awards_nomination_form.pdf. You may contact President Jean Buchenhorst, Scott Aikey, or Mary Gourley for nomination forms. All nominations are welcome and anyone can nominate.

Let's have a banner year for awards next year.

ASCLS-PA Welcomes New Members

ASCLS-PA would like to welcome all the new members who have joined our organization between September 1, 2015 and November 30, 2015. If you work with one of these new members, please welcome them to the Society and encourage them to become active!

Stephanie	Bacho	Cinnaminson	NJ
Haley	Broomell	Newfield	NJ
Joshua	Cannon	Parkside	PA
Lisa	Covert	Orbisonia	PA
Selina	Dao	Philadelphia	PA
Kyler	Gauger	Douglassville	PA
Devin	Glose	Slatington	PA
Jenna	Krasley	Warrington	PA
Crystal	Lijadu	Lansdowne	PA
Michelle	Nguyen	Carlisle	PA
Katherine	O'Connor	Harrisburg	PA
Jessica	O'Donnell	Havertown	PA
Rutwa	Otia	Philadelphia	PA
Morgan	Pizzo	Harleysville	PA
Courtney	Prozeralik	Philadelphia	PA
Edward	Vo	North Wales	PA



Motions from the most Recent ASCLS-PA Board Meeting and House of Delegates

William Hunt
ASCLS-PA Secretary

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-PA Board Meeting

Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

MOTION #1: Moved by Aikey, seconded by Hunt that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors approve the agenda as presented. Motion Passed

Motion #2: Moved by Aikey, seconded by Falsone that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors approve the Secretary's report dated 5/4/15 as presented. Motion Passed.

Motion #3: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Osborne that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors move \$1954.20 remaining from the FY14-FY15 to the Reserve Fund for FY16-FY17. Motion Passed

Motion #4: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Osborne that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors accept the ASCLS-PA Treasurer's Report covering 9-1-14 to 8-30-15 and file for audit. Motion Passed

Motion #5: Moved by Osborne, seconded by Falsone that the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors make the Dolby Scholarship amount for 2016 \$2000 and the Undergraduate Scholarship amount for 2016 \$1500. Motion Passed

Motion #6: Moved by Strauss, seconded by Osborne that the ASCLS-PA BOD fund the registration for up to 8 members to attend the ASCLS Legislative Day March 14&15, 2016.

Motion #7: Moved by Hunt, seconded by Strauss that the Treasurer investigate products for a display table with the ASCLS-PA Logo not to exceed \$1200 to be paid from the O&A Line item.

Motion #8: Moved by Strauss, seconded by Hunt for the Board of Directors to adjourn.

Coming Events

ASCLS-PA Winter Board of Directors Meeting: February 6, 2016 (Quest Diagnostics)

ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting and Expo / Board Meeting: April 11-13, 2016 (Harrisburg)

ASCLS-PA Student Review Session: June 4, 2016 (Philadelphia)

ASCLS National Meeting and Clinical Lab Expo: August 1-4, 2016 (Philadelphia)

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



The Pennsylvania Newsletter
8 Lakeview Court
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

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ASCLS Pennsylvania

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update all your membership
information online at
www.ascls-pa.org**

**Or send your attached label
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to insure uninterrupted service**



ASCLS-PA Handbook under Revision

Mary M. Gourley, ASCLS-PA
Bylaws Chair

A task force is in the process of reviewing the ASCLS-PA Handbook. The task force will make revisions for each section to update the language and update the handbook to be compatible with the ASCLS-PA Bylaws and SOP's. The revised handbook will be reviewed and approved by the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors. Once approved, the handbook will be posted on the website.

