



**ASCLS**  
The American Society for  
Clinical Laboratory Science  
**PENNSYLVANIA** 

## **Joint Spring Meeting**

**American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
Pennsylvania**

**Pennsylvania State Society of  
American Medical Technologists**

**May 7 & 8, 2023**

**Red Lion Hotel  
Harrisburg, PA**

# 2023 Annual Meeting

Welcome to the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania affiliate of American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science and the Pennsylvania State Society of American Medical Technologists. The committee working on the Annual Meeting has put a great deal of effort into planning a comprehensive program for you. You will find within these pages the best continuing education and networking opportunities in the area.

We are excited to again offer an in-person educational event. The world has become more aware of the importance of accurate, timely, and effective laboratory diagnostic testing in the midst of this global COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, ASCLS-PA and PASSAMT are dedicated to providing laboratory professionals with the continuing education they need to stay on top of our field and participate in BOC Certification Maintenance with 20 hours of PACE-approved continuing education credits through this in person meeting. We will also have a vendor hall to visit to get information about jobs, products, new instruments, and platforms they have to offer. A list of sponsors is found later in the program. A light breakfast and buffet lunch are included in your daily registration.

To stay up to date on everything ASCLS-PA, please visit us at our website, "www.ascls-pa.org." We hope that the traditions of the past and the changes for the future will produce an enjoyable meeting for you.

## Register Online at [www.ascls-pa.org](http://www.ascls-pa.org)

Member	\$110.00
Non-Member	\$160.00
Student Member	\$50.00
Student Non-Member	\$75.00

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## 2023 Annual Meeting Planning Committee

General Chair:	Jean Buchenhorst
Program Chair:	Joshua Cannon
Vendor Chair:	Travis Bicher
Registration Chair:	Sharon Strauss
PACE Coordinator	Katie Franz

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## General Meeting Schedule

### Sunday, May 7, 2023:

3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ASCLS-PA Board of Directors Meeting / Annual Business Meeting & Dinner/Awards Ceremony  
All ASCLS members are welcome!  
Non-Members interested in getting involved are also welcome!

### Monday, May 8, 2023:

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Registration and <u>Dedicated Exhibit Time</u>
8:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	General Sessions (Check on site for room updates)
10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	<u>Dedicated Exhibit Time</u>
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	General Session (Check on site for room updates)
12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Buffet Lunch <u>Dedicated Exhibit Time</u>
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	General Sessions (Check on site for room updates)
2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	<u>Dedicated Exhibit Time</u>
2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	General Session (Check on site for room updates)

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. PASSAMT Business Meeting (All State Society AMT Members welcome)

P.A.C.E.® approval is pending for all sessions.  
ASCLS-PA is an approved provider of C.E. programs by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program  
The educational objectives for each session are printed on the session's evaluation sheet.  
The level of each session is INTERMEDIATE unless otherwise noted.

## Meeting & Program Sponsorships

We are deeply grateful for the support provided by the following sponsors. A complete listing will be prominently posted during the meeting. We encourage all attendees to take time throughout the day to stop by the vendor tables to gather information and see demonstrations of the latest technologies and laboratory services offered by our industry partners.

Geisinger



# General Program

## 8:30–9:30 AM SESSIONS

### Session #1

#### **“Continuous Improvement Culture (Lean Six Sigma)”**

Yanhuan (Grace) Renn, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
Senior Laboratory Technical Specialist  
Penn State Holy Spirit Medical Center, Camp Hill, PA

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

The session will open with the history of Lean Six Sigma and how continuous improvement methodologies pioneered by Ford, Toyota, and Motorola can translate into a healthcare setting. The 3 notable benefits of implementing continuous improvement culture will be summarized in numbers and statistics. Three case studies will be shared to provide examples of detailed DMAIC implementation. Finally, the session will introduce 2 commonly used tools in Root Cause Analysis that precede action steps.

### Session #2

#### **“Doctor of Clinical Laboratory Science (DCLS): Meeting the Need-Actuating the Practice”**

Nadine Fydryszewski, PhD, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
Professor, Director-Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Science Program  
Rutgers University, Rutgers Biomedical Health Sciences, School of Health Professions  
Department of Clinical Laboratory and Medical Imaging Sciences  
Newark, New Jersey

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

This session will review the evidence supporting the need for the DCLS and describe the DCLS hybrid curriculum model to support the working MLS to achieve higher education and career goals. Implementation of the DCLS in practice through the DCLS Clinical Practice Residency year, and contributions of the DCLS to laboratory stewardship and quality patient care will be discussed.

### Session #3

#### **“What’s New in AST? CLSI Updates”**

April Bobenchik, PhD, D(ABMM), MT(ASCP)  
Medical Director, Microbiology/Virology  
Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, PA

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

This session will cover Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) focusing on the recent changes in the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) M100 document. Through the use of case-based examples we will cover 1) how to use the revised Tables 1 for testing and reporting antimicrobials and 2) how to approach updating clinical breakpoints.

### Session #4

#### **“Introduction to Cell Therapy: Operations of a Stem Cell Lab”**

Gabriela C. Peterson, MHA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
Stem Cell Technical Manager  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

This session will be an overview of the general processes and operations in the stem cell laboratory, inclusive of collection and processing of cellular therapy products for therapeutic transplantation and the preparation of cellular therapy products for further manufacturing of genetically modified T-cells. The types of stem cell transplants and their utilization in associated disease states will be discussed. Infusion procedures and engraftment monitoring will be explained.

## 9:45–10:45 AM SESSIONS

### Session #5

#### **“Xylazine: A Growing Problem”**

Jacqueline M. Shaw, BS, MLS<sup>CM</sup>, MPH  
Technical Specialist  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

This session will include a discussion of xylazine, its clinical significance, statistics associated with xylazine, and its contamination of the street drug supply.

**Session #6**

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Myeloproliferative Neoplasms”**

Elizabeth Margolskee, MD, MPH  
 Director of Hematology, Core Laboratory  
 Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia  
 Philadelphia, PA

This session will be a review of the WHO classification for myeloproliferative neoplasms, with focus on Polycythemia Vera, Essential thrombocytopenia, and Primary myelofibrosis.

**Session #7**

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Pathogen or Contaminant? Case Studies in Clinical Microbiology”**

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

When uncommon organisms are isolated in the microbiology laboratory, their clinical significance is often unclear, especially if they are typically considered non-pathogenic or potential environmental contaminants. However, such organisms can cause disease in specific patient populations. In this session, we will discuss cases of disease caused by unusual organisms, with a focus on how to recognize them in the laboratory and the need for bidirectional communication with clinical teams for optimal patient care.

**Session #8**

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Fetal and Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia: Learning Through Case Studies”**

Shraddha Babariya, MD  
 Medical Director  
 American Red Cross  
 Philadelphia, PA

This session will provide the attendee with an overview of fetal and neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia (FNAIT) and testing utilized for diagnosis. We will then apply these concepts to case studies as well as briefly discuss the transfusion support.

**11:15 PM–12:15 PM SESSIONS****Session #9**

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**“HbA1c through the Laboratorian’s Eye”**

Olajumoke Oladipo, MD, DABCC, FCAP  
 Associate Medical Director, Automated Testing Laboratory  
 Associate Professor of Pathology, Medical Director, Hematology and Coagulation  
 Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA

About 11.3% of the US population has diabetes and more than a million new cases are diagnosed yearly. The diagnosis depends on the measurement of HbA1c and blood glucose levels. Accurate measurement of HbA1c is very important in the diagnoses and prognosis of DM. This session will address the factors that need to be considered in choosing an assay and interpreting the results.

**Session #10**

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Myelodysplastic Syndromes: What’s New in the Classification”**

Gustavo A Torres, MD  
 Hematopathology Fellow  
 Penn State Health/Penn State University  
 Hershey, PA

Hematopathology is a dynamic field and has quickly evolved to a more molecular driven classification of entities. Despite all the advances in molecular diagnosis, morphology remains the cornerstone and one of the most important factors to reach an accurate diagnosis. With two competing classification systems (WHO and ICC), this session will provide the general morphologic characteristics of MDS and will summarize the changes in the new classification system trying to find common ground between the two systems.

**Session #11****Session Code:** \_\_\_\_\_**“Evaluation of a Novel Sample Preparation Workflow for Rapid Identification and Phenotypic Susceptibility Testing of Gram-negative Bacilli Directly from Blood Cultures”**

Courtney Comar, PhD  
 Clinical Microbiology Fellow  
 Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania & Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia  
 Philadelphia, PA

Blood stream infections cause significant morbidity and mortality. Patient outcomes improve with rapid pathogen identification and targeted antimicrobial therapy. For Gram-negative bacilli, rapid phenotypic antimicrobial susceptibility testing currently provides a more comprehensive profile for targeting antimicrobial therapy than molecular testing. We evaluated the performance of the Qvella FAST System Liquid Colony™ for rapid identification and testing susceptibility directly from a positive blood culture compared to the standard of care from solid media growth.

**Session #12****Session Code:** \_\_\_\_\_**“Drug Interference in Blood Bank Testing”**

Sarah Kesterson, MD  
 Transfusion Medicine Fellow  
 Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center  
 Hershey, PA

Interference in pretransfusion blood bank testing can be seen with multiple immunotherapies. This discussion will review the prototypical anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody, daratumumab, while also looking ahead to new monoclonal antibody therapeutics that have the same potential for interference. Finding ways to mitigate that interference is essential for accurately identifying antibodies and issuing the safest blood components.

**1:15–2:15 PM SESSIONS****Session #13****Session Code:** \_\_\_\_\_**“Transgender Laboratory Medicine: Special Considerations for the Lab”**

Jenna T. Reece, MD, MS  
 Instructor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine  
 Clinical Informatics Fellow  
 Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
 Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Transgender patients face discrimination in healthcare that adversely affects health outcomes. For laboratory medicine, many inequities are structural, and result from the inaccurate assumption that a patient’s binary legal sex describes their biology. Addressing this poses unique hurdles for laboratory medicine, including determining the impact of gender affirming therapy on reference ranges, and interrogating the use of gender in clinical decision support.

**Session #14****Session Code:** \_\_\_\_\_**“Be Ready, So You Don’t Have to Get Ready!”**

Julia Bell, MLS (ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> SH<sup>CM</sup>  
 Analytical Specialist, Hematology and Semen Analysis  
 Geisinger Wyoming Valley  
 Wilkes-Barre, PA

Thinking about taking the next step in your career, but not sure how to prepare? Join me as we discuss ways to make your resume stand out. Next, we’ll discuss what to expect after getting that promotion in the hematology laboratory! I’ll provide an overview of the various tasks and responsibilities you’ll encounter. While I’ll focus on hematology, the information you’ll receive can be applied to any department, at any stage of your career.

**Session#15****Session Code:** \_\_\_\_\_**“The Ethics of Laboratory Medicine”**

Melissa R. George, DO, FCAP, FASCP  
 Medical Director, Transfusion Medicine  
 Associate Dean, Continuing Education  
 Penn State Health  
 Hershey, PA

This session will provide an overview of the basic principles of medical ethics and will highlight ethical issues unique to laboratory medicine such as use of leftover samples, incidental findings, and stewardship. Interactive, real-world, ethical scenarios encountered in the clinical laboratory will be discussed.

**Session #16**

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Let’s Talk About Blood: Creative Ideas in Inventory Management and Interesting Case Studies”**

Jennifer A. Carver, BS, MT(ASCP)  
System Manager of the Transfusion Service  
Geisinger Medical Laboratories  
Danville, PA

This session will be a review of current challenges in Inventory Management with practical strategies during a blood shortage. We will review utilization of blood and components in MTP, including the use of whole blood and liquid plasma. Two case studies will be reviewed including an Anti Jk3 identified and emergency transfusion of incompatible blood and blood selection for a patient with a warm autoantibody with Rh specificity.

**2:45–3:45 PM SESSIONS****Session #17**

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Analysis of Body Fluid in the Clinical Chemistry Laboratory”**

Daisy Unsihuay, PhD  
Clinical Chemistry Fellow  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Abnormal accumulation of body fluids can arise from diverse pathological processes. Hence, chemical analysis of their composition is important for diagnosing the cause of such effusions. Most body fluids are considered off-label specimens and therefore, require additional considerations for their test implementation. In this session, we will discuss the most relevant analytes in commonly encountered fluids, strategies for validating body fluid testing, and use of literature-derived decision limits in the interpretation of the results.

**Session #18**

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Iron Disorders – Let’s Iron Out the Details”**

Christina Scott, MSHA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> SH<sup>CM</sup>  
Director, Laboratory Services Educational Programs  
WellSpan Health  
York, PA

This session will cover disorders that occur due to disordered iron metabolism including iron-deficiency anemia, sideroblastic anemia, anemia of chronic disease/anemia of inflammation, and hemochromatosis. We will also discuss how each defect affects hemoglobin synthesis, typical iron study results, and treatments.

**Session #19**

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Challenges in Diagnostic Testing for *Clostridioides difficile* Infection”**

Elizabeth M. Garrett, PhD, D(ABMM)  
Associate Director of Microbiology and Diagnostic Virology  
Hershey Medical Center, Penn State University  
Hershey, PA

*Clostridioides difficile* is a leading cause of hospital-acquired infections in the U.S. Antibiotic therapy is an important risk factor for *C. difficile* infection (CDI), which causes diarrhea with potentially severe complications including death. While *C. difficile* is a significant bacterial pathogen, carriers may be asymptotically colonized with *C. difficile*, complicating diagnosis of CDI. This session will cover the epidemiology and pathogenesis of CDI as well as discuss the benefits and limitations of current diagnostic testing strategies.

**Session #20**

Session Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Ethical Concerns in Patient Blood Management”**

Gustaaf deRidder, MD, PhD  
System Director of Transfusion  
Geisinger  
Danville, PA

Mary Ann Sromoski, RN, MSN, CCRN-K, CNE-K  
System Director of Transfusion  
Geisinger  
Danville, PA

The speakers will provide a brief overview of Patient Blood Management. This will include reasons for choosing to decline a transfusion, provide an overview of patient rights and responsibilities, including the core ethical principles of beneficence, patient autonomy, non-maleficence, patient/provider fiduciary relationship, and justice as it relates to transfusion decisions. Alternatives to transfusion will also be discussed. The speakers will explore the process of true informed consent and the incorporation of patient decision-making and patient-centered care through a case study and an informed consent skit.





**Sharon Strauss  
8 Lakeview Court  
Sinking Spring, PA 19608**

## **Join ASCLS!**

**For more information about ASCLS, go to [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)**

### **ASCLS Mission:**

The mission of ASCLS is to make a positive impact in healthcare through leadership that will assure excellence in the practice of laboratory medicine.

### **ASCLS Believes:**

- Quality laboratory service is essential to quality healthcare.
- Everyone deserves access to safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient-centered healthcare, and
- Advancing the laboratory profession advances healthcare.