



The Pennsylvania Newsletter

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

Vol 20 no.2

Spring 2008

President's Message

By Sharon Strauss,
ASCLS-PA President



If you have never met with one of your Senators, Representative, or their Legislative Aides to express your opinion about issues important to you, it is an exciting experience, especially in Washington, D.C! I recently returned from Legislative Day, an activity sponsored by ASCLS, CLMA and ASCP. This is one of the ways that these three organizations have been working together for our profession. It may sound intimidating at first, but I am sure that those who attended for the first time this year would agree that they were well prepared for their visits after attending the first day sessions. It is a great experience to be part of a group of people from all over the country, (including quite a few students) and to participate in our legislative process in the nation's capital.

There are a number of pressing issues facing our profession. During sessions on the first day, attendees were updated on 3 of the most important issues that affect us all in our professional lives:

1. Competitive Bidding for laboratory services
2. Laboratory personnel shortage
3. Modernization of the Medicare Laboratory Fee Schedule

On the second day, we had appointments at our Senators' and Representatives' offices to lobby on these issues.

When you visit your Congressman's office, you often meet with their Legislative Aide in charge of health care issues rather than with the Congressman themselves. In fact, during our visit, Congress was not in session and many of the Congressmen were in their home districts, so most of us met with their staff. The Aide's job is to keep current on the issues in their area of expertise and to know the feelings of constituents so that they can update the Congressman. With hundreds of bills before Congress on every issue under the sun, it is difficult for a Congressman to stay current on all of the issues. The better you can get the Aide to understand the issue, the better your chance of getting the Congressman to support your cause. You should not feel intimidated (in fact many of the office staff look like they are right out of college!!). They are there to represent you, and your taxes pay their salary.

(President's Message cont. on page 4)

Mark Your Calendar!!!

Spring 2008 ASCLS-PA Board of Director's Meeting
Monday April 28th at 7:00pm
Valley Forge Scanticon Hotel
All members welcome!

ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting:
April 29-30, 2008
Valley Forge Scanticon Hotel
Valley Forge, PA
See inside for meeting updates!

Networking Dinner
Tuesday, April 29th, 2008 5:30-7:00pm
Valley Forge Scanticon Hotel
All welcome (cost is \$40).

Moderators needed for Meeting Sessions!
If you are willing to help, please contact
Mary Beth Miele, General Chair
mmiele@hmc.psu.edu

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

Happy Laboratory Professionals Week!
April 20-26, 2008

Check out our Website for updates..
www.ascls-pa.org

Check out what's inside:

- ◆ 2008 ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting updates
- ◆ Legislative Day
- ◆ Member Profile: Randi Bright, Penn State HMC Special Hematology Lab
- ◆ 2008 Student Review Info
- ◆ Nominations needed for new officers!
- ◆ Continuing education offered at RACC
- ◆ Laboratory Professionals Week information



ANNUAL SPRING MEETING 2008

April 29 & 30, 2008

The Valley Forge Scanticon Hotel
1160 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406
(610) 265-1500
<http://www.scanticonvalleyforge.com/>



We're almost there! **Early** registration deadline is a postmark of **April 14, 2008**. Don't hesitate, just do it now! This is a **BEST VALUE** meeting where 45 speakers will provide over 6 hours per day per discipline of **continuing education**; industry partners will have their **mobile laboratories** on site; exhibitors will be present in the registration area; and in addition, all day **refreshments and lunch** are included in registration fees!

On Tuesday evening EVERYONE is invited to the **NETWORKING DINNER**, a buffet meal featuring Roast Top Sirloin, Chicken Franchais Medallions, Vegetarian Lasagna, garden salad, fresh fruit medley, seafood salad, and chef's assortment of cakes, pies, tortes, and mousse (a \$50 value) is being offered to you for only \$40!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registrant Type	Tuesday	Wednesday
Member (ASCLS-PA, PSS-AMT, 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	-----

Working together with PSSAMT and PABB, ASCLS-PA is offering the following slate of titles by experts in their respective fields. More detailed information can be found at www.ascls-pa.org.

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



At the Valley Forge Scantion Hotel

A full schedule of talks is planned for both days with a guarantee of six hours of P.A.C.E.-approved credit each day. Please see www.ascls-pa.org for more information.

Sessions will cover topics in the following categories: Transfusion Medicine, Microbiology, Clinical Chemistry, Hematology, and General.

The General category will include talks focused on phlebotomy, management, and legislative issues affecting our profession.

Day 1: Tues, 4/29

Transfusion Medicine talks will discuss transfusion safety, blood utilization, platelet transfusion safety, molecular testing applications and an AABB updates.

Microbiology topics include “Lean” in the microbiology lab, emerging resistance, Helicobacter pylori testing, MRSA, and how to improve the performance of your blood culture system.

Clinical Chemistry presentations will discuss celiac disease, interferences in immunoassays, forensic aspects of alcohol, eGFR, and “Lean” in the lab.

Hematology topics talking about new hematological parameters, prothrombotic events and diabetes mellitus, a review of leukemias, and diagnosis and management of iron deficiency anemia.

Miscellaneous topics will cover legal aspects of phlebotomy, preanalytical variables in specimen collection, proposed level of practice, steroid testing using mass spectrometry, an evaluation of Starbucks as a model for our profession.

Day 2: Wed, 4/30

Blood Bank topics will feature case studies, antibody identification, transplantation, and control of bleeding in the difficult patient.

Microbiology topics include the latest news on PA Act 52, diagnosis of respiratory viruses, Lyme disease, and a series of case studies. Talks about point of care, medical errors, microalbumin, pediatric chemistry, biomarkers of acute coronary syndrome and unannounced inspection tips will be presented.

Clinical Chemistry talks about point of care, medical errors, microalbumin, pediatric chemistry, biomarkers of acute coronary syndrome and unannounced inspection tips will be presented.

Hematology talks will start with case studies, discuss lymphoma, bone marrow transplantation, and end with a workshop of body fluid cell counts and differentials, tips and techniques.

Urinalysis: A workshop on urinalysis will take place in the afternoon.

General: A session of great interest will discuss the **Laboratory Workforce Shortage: Grim realities and innovative solutions**, followed by Amazing News from CDC 2007 Institute and the rest of the Federal Government.

Two full days packed full of pertinent information about topics relevant to our every day practice of clinical laboratory science. You can't beat it, a real **BEST BUY!** Come hear experts in our field share current knowledge and emerging concerns, and take advantage of networking opportunities with your colleagues!

Lodging: Reservation deadline is April 4th, 2008 – Rates: \$142.00/night (single/double); \$152.00/night (triple/quad). Reservations should be made by calling 610-265-1500 between the hours of 8AM – 4PM and identify yourself as an attendee of the ASCLS-PA Annual Spring meeting.

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

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

**For more Registration info, visit our Website at www.ascls-pa.org
We hope to see you there!!!**



**The RACC Health Professionals Club
is pleased to present an evening
with motivational speaker Rita Miller!**

***How to Rock N' Roll in your
Healthcare Career: Resilience and
Growth for the Healthcare Professional***

Wednesday May 14th at 7:00 p.m.

at Reading Area Community College Miller Center For The Arts

**Admission is free and open to all healthcare professionals and
students in healthcare programs.**

For more information call Lanie Fessler: (610) 372-4721 ext. 5428.

(President's message continued from page 1)
In addition, we usually go as a group to our Senators' offices first to become comfortable with the process (so you will not be alone if you are a newbie) and then split off to visit our individual representative's offices.

You don't have to be a seasoned laboratory professional to participate. I hope that many of you will consider attending this exciting event next year. ASCLS-PA members can apply for a Continuing Education Assistantship to help support their attendance. We need all the support and participation we can muster to fight for important issues. The more voices heard, the more likely they will understand our important issues.

What can you do locally? Write a letter or send an email with your thoughts on current bills and issues. You can find out who your local representative or senator is by visiting our Website. Go to www.ascls-pa.org and click on "Government".



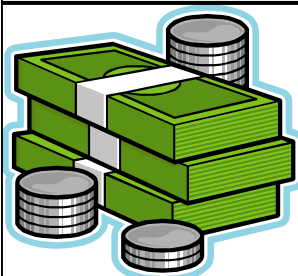
**Happy Laboratory
Professionals Week!**

April 26-30, 2008

We would love to hear what you are doing!
If you would like to submit an article or photos of what your lab did to celebrate lab week, please contact Ruth Negley at ranegley@hacc.edu



A message from ASCLS:
To order lab week items, please visit www.labprofessionalsweek.com/ascls/



Scholarship News...

If you've applied for the
ASCLS-PA Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

The winner will be announced at the 2008 Annual
Spring Meeting in April.





Nominations and Elections Committee Report

Submitted by Barbara Snyderman, Chair



Every year at the Annual Meeting, the ASCLS-PA House of Delegates elects officers to serve the society. The election that will occur in Valley Forge this year is scheduled for April 28th and all members serving as delegates to the House are eligible to vote.

Under normal circumstances, the society chooses a new President-elect in addition to Board of Directors, Bylaws members and either a Secretary or Treasurer. Our current President-elect, Lisa Bakken, relocated to California, which created the need to elect both a President and President-elect this year.

There are two candidates identifies as of the printing of this newsletter:

- ◆ **President:** Mary Gourley. Mary is a Past-President of ASCLS-PA, a past Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors. She has served as Director of Region II of ASCLS and has served as Delegate to the ASCLS Annual Meeting. Mary has served on numerous committees and currently is chair of the Leadership Development Committee and a member of the Bylaws Committee.
- ◆ **President-elect:** Katie Franz. Katie is also a Past-President of ASCLS-PA and is currently serving as Secretary. She has served as a Board of Directors member and as delegate to ASCLS Annual Meetings.

From the Society's regulations, the duties of and length of terms are:

President of the society:

Presiding over all meetings of the ASCLS-PA Board of Directors
 Leader of delegation to ASCLS Annual Meeting
 Ex-officio member of all committees except Nominations and Elections
 Serves as President one year, then becomes Past-President, unless there is a vacancy in the office of President-elect.

President-elect of the society:

Aids President as requested
 Performs duties of President in the absence of the President
 Appoints committee chairs prior to becoming President

Secretary:

Keeps a record of all minutes taken at all official meetings
 Keeps a record of electronic ballots
 Sends copies of minutes to Board of Directors within 30 days after meetings
 Conducts correspondence as authorized by the Board or House of Delegates
 Serves a two year term

Board of Directors:

Responsible for the yearly business of the Society
 Attend meetings of the Board (usually 2-3 per year)
 Serves a three year term

Bylaws Committee:

Serves a three year term
 Examines and considers changes in the constitutional codes of the Society and District societies
 Prepare suggested modifications to the SOPs of the Society

Any member in good standing is eligible to run for office of this society. If interested, please contact Barbara Snyderman via email at bsnyderman@comcast.net.



Student News:

The ASCLS-PA Annual Student Review Session is now scheduled for Saturday, June 14th at University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, PA. All are welcome...students and those who would like to hear a review. See below for details!

Questions: contact Pete Vulfson, ASCLS-PA Student Representative at pvulfson@mail.usp.edu

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science - PA ASCLS-PA CLS/CLT Student Review Session June 14, 2008

**Location: University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
AstraZeneca Auditorium (Room 145) in STC
600 S. 43rd Philadelphia, Pa 19104**

Time:	Topic:	Speaker:
8:30-10:00	Chemistry/Urinalysis 1.5 Contact hours	Mary Ann McLane, Ph.D., CLS(NCA) University of Delaware
10:15-11:45	Hematology/Coagulation 1.5 Contact hours	Raelene Maser, Ph.D., MT(ASCP) University of Delaware
11:45-12:30	Lunch	
12:30-2:00	Microbiology 1.5 Contact hours	Michelle Parent, Ph.D., MT(ASCP) University of Delaware
2:15-3:15	Blood Banking 1.0 Contact hours	Henry Ogedegbe, Ph.D. University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
3:15-4:15	Test Taking Tips 1.0 Contact hours	TBA

Registration fee includes lunch and handouts!
ASCLS-PA is a PACE provider

Questions:

Contact: Pete Vulfson
Student Representative, ASCLS-PA
7259 Rupert St.
Philadelphia, PA 19149
Email: pvulfson@mail.usp.edu

ASCLS Review Session Registration Form

Date: June 14, 2008

**Place: STC at University of Sciences in Philadelphia
600 S. 43rd Philadelphia, Pa 19104**

Registration Deadline: 05/30/2008

Name:		Phone:	
Institution:		ASCLS Membership # (If applicable)	
Address		Email Address:	
City		Cell Phone #	
State/Zip			

Registration Fees:	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Student ASCLS Member	\$25.00	_____
Student ASCLS Non-Member	\$35.00	_____
Non-Student ASCLS Member	\$45.00	_____
Non-Student ASCLS Non-Member	\$55.00	_____
Late Fee (After 5/30/2008)*	\$15.00	_____
*In addition to registration fee		
Grand Total:		_____

Mail Registration form and check made payable to ASCLS-PA to:

**Pete Vulfson
7259 Rupert St.
Philadelphia, Pa 19149**

**Directions: www.usp.edu/directions/
Parking is Free**

All profits go to ASCLS-PA Student Forum



ASCLS-PA Member Profile: Meet Randi Bright

Submitted by Ruth Negley,
Newsletter Editor



Featured member for the spring 2008 newsletter is 26 year old Randi Bright, a clinical laboratory scientist. Randi lives in Middletown, PA with her boyfriend Nate of eight years and pet rabbits Sam and Vegas. She is a 2003 graduate of HACC's MLT program and has continued with her education ever since, while working in various positions at Penn State Hershey Medical Center.

I spoke with Randi for about 45 minutes one winter evening in March while she took a break from studying for a mid-term and handled a broken water heater situation, all while being interviewed by me! Juggling work, school, and home life is nothing new to Randi. She has been working full-time in the clinical laboratory at HMC for over four years, while she continues her education.

Q: What positions have you worked in at HMC?

A: I started out working as a specimen processor in microbiology while enrolled in the MLT program at HACC. After graduating from HACC with my Associate's degree and passing the MLT (ASCP) exam, I accepted a full-time evening position as a generalist at HMC. Then after getting my BS degree and passing the CLS (NCA) exam, I was promoted to the Med Tech II position, where, in addition to my generalist duties, I was responsible for Quality Control in the blood bank lab. Currently, I work in special hematology, performing flow cytometry. In addition to that position, I serve as the Safety Officer for the special hematology lab. I like working at HMC, because we have a very diverse patient population and we perform many unusual laboratory tests not routinely done in smaller hospitals.

Q: What prompted you to change positions in the laboratory?

A: Accepting the Med Tech II position is part of the career ladder offered at HMC. I was assigned Quality Control responsibilities in addition to working as a generalist. In this position, I was challenged by taking on additional workload and could gain some management skills. Changing from a generalist to my current position in special hematology was mainly so that I could be available in the evenings to take courses for my Master's degree and I was also ready to specialize in one department. My Med Tech II responsibilities also changed to safety officer after I accepted the new position. The hours were great too! My work schedule is Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm.

Q: Tell us what it is like to work in flow cytometry:

A: Our department is very small, consisting of only 8 people. There are some who perform the flow cytometry and other techs who perform different testing and assist the doctors with bone marrow aspirates and peripheral blood collection. When these specimens are delivered to the laboratory, lab professionals within my section process them by incubating each with fluorescent antibodies specific to the panel type ordered. After processing, which takes about 1-2 hours, we run the panel on the flow cytometer and perform the analysis. After reviewing the results, we submit them to a hematologist for interpretation. Also, smears are prepared and stained with Wright's stain for evaluation by the physician.

Q: What types of patients would require flow cytometry testing?

A: Flow cytometry is performed to quantify and evaluate white cell subpopulations. CD markers are used to determine numbers and types of cells present in the bone marrow or peripheral blood to diagnose and monitor treatment and disease status of leukemia and lymphoma patients. We also do flow cytometry for HIV/AIDS patients to monitor T and B lymphocytes.

Q: Tell us about your continuing education after getting your Associate's degree:

A: Soon after graduating from HACC's MLT program, I decided to return to college part-time to earn my BS degree. I graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Technology in May 2006 with a BS in Applied Health Studies. After that, I was eligible to sit for the CLS (NCA) exam and passed! This semester is my first in Penn State Harrisburg's graduate program in Health Administration. I guess I would have to say that I am seeking additional education for the opportunities for advancement in the laboratory and because I love learning new things!
(continued next page)

**ASCLS-PA would like to thank the following Sponsors
At this Year's Annual Spring Meeting
in Scenic Valley Forge, PA
April 29-30, 2008**

ADVANCE for Medical Lab Professionals	IRIS Diagnostics
ARUP Laboratories	Lifepoint Informatics - Labtest.com
American Society for Clinical Lab Science - PA	Mayo Medical Laboratories
Beckman Coulter, Inc.	Meridian Bioscience, Inc.
BD Diagnostics	Novo Nordisk, Inc.
BD Diagnostics - GeneOhm	Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics
BD Diagnostics - Preanalytical Systems	PA State Society of American Medical Technologists
bioMerieux, Inc.	Quest Diagnostics
Bio-Rad Laboratories	Roche Diagnostics
College of American Pathologists	Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics

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.

As you visit, please let them know that we appreciate their support!

(Bright interview continued from page 8)

Q: What are your classes like?

A: Although my BS degree at Penn Tech was earned through distance education, the courses that I'm taking at Penn State Harrisburg for my Master's degree are on-campus. There are approximately 20 students in the classes that I'm currently taking. I enjoy both face-to-face classes and on-line classes. I do recommend distance education and have had some really good on-line courses. However, you do have to be self-motivated and highly disciplined to be successful in those types of courses. I feel like I have learned a lot in the on-line classes because this type of learning requires that you read and learn much of the information in the textbook on your own in order to participate in class discussions and complete assignments.

Q: When did you join ASCLS?

A: I joined in 2003 when I was a HACC student and attended the student review sessions. I recently became active in leadership within the last year. I currently hold the position of Young Professional in this organization and try to attend the quarterly Board of Directors meetings. I love the continuing education offered by ASCLS-PA and have attended the Annual Spring Meeting each year. Also, I have attended one national ASCLS meeting when it was held in Philadelphia, and plan to attend this year's meeting in Washington DC. The best thing about attending those meetings

is that you get to meet a lot of people who like to do the same thing that you do!

This year, I am helping with the 2008 ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting as program co-chair. This is the first time I have actively helped with one of these meetings, and I'm definitely learning a lot about what it takes to put these meetings together! I am considered the "nudge" and have contacted speakers about presenting at this year's spring meeting and getting information from them. I now have an appreciation for getting back to people quickly and meeting deadlines!

Q: What message do you have for students and new graduates?

A: Don't be afraid to continue your education, whether it is by going back to school or attending CE sessions. It is imperative to know above and beyond just knowing simply how to perform the testing. Physicians, nurses, and other healthcare staff do rely on the lab for more than just the test results!

If you would like to contact Randi to ask questions about her involvement in ASCLS-PA or about her experiences in distance education or graduate school, you can contact her at Litebrite14@aol.com. If you attend the ASCLS-PA meeting in King of Prussia on April 29-30, 2008, you will see her there!



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

2008 Spring ASCLS-PA Board of Directors at Valley Forge	Mon, April 28, 2008
2008 ASCLS-PA Annual Spring Meeting	April 29-30, 2008
2008 ASCLS National Annual Meeting	July 29-Aug 2, 2008

The Pennsylvania Newsletter

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

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