



**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 15-16, 2022**

**Doubletree Suites by Hilton  
Philadelphia West**

**Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania**

# 2022 Annual Meeting

Welcome to the 86<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 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. ASCLS-PA and PASSAMT are dedicated to providing laboratory professionals with the continuing education they need to stay on top of their 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 supporting companies and get the latest information about jobs, products, instruments, and platforms. A list of these sponsors is found below. A light breakfast and buffet lunch are included in your daily registration. The planning committee will monitor and follow any CDC and hotel guidelines for COVID-19 in place at the time of the meeting.

To stay up to date on ASCLS-PA, please visit us at our website, [www.ascls-pa.org](http://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

## 2022 Annual Meeting Planning Committee

General Chair:	Sharon Strauss
Program Chair:	Joshua Cannon
Vendor Chair:	Travis Bicher
Registration Chairs:	Marianne Downes/Sharon Strauss
PACE Coordinator	Katie Franz

## General Meeting Schedule

### Sunday, May 15, 2022:

3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

ASCLS-PA Board of Directors Meeting / Annual Business Meeting & Dinner/Awards Ceremony

#### **Walnut B**

All ASCLS members are welcome!

Non-Members interested in getting involved are also welcome!

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

PASSAMT Board of Directors Meeting - **Spruce**

### Monday, May 16, 2022:

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Registration and Dedicated Exhibit Time

8:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

General Sessions (Check on site for room updates)

10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Dedicated Exhibit Time

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 Dedicated Exhibit Time

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

General Sessions (Check on site for room updates)

2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Dedicated Exhibit Time

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)

**Spruce**

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.

		
		
		
		

## General Program

### 8:30–9:30 AM SESSIONS

**Session #1**

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

**“A Review of Laboratory Acquired Infections – Let’s Eliminate this Occupational Risk!”**

Deborah Blecker Shelly, MS, MT(ASCP)SM<sup>CM</sup>, DLM<sup>CM</sup>  
 Laboratory Manager of Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostic Services  
 Capital Health, Pennington, New Jersey

Working in a clinical laboratory is associated with significant risk. As staffing shortages, turnover and a pandemic increase stress levels in our laboratories, breaks in technique are more likely to occur, increasing the risk for occupational exposure and laboratory acquired infections (LAI). This session will cover factors associated with laboratory acquired infections, review the most common pathogens, exposure management, and discuss the importance of risk assessment and biosafety.

**Session #2**

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

**“A Look Inside a Clinical Chemist’s Tool Kit: Pediatric Cases”**

Khushbu Patel, PhD, DABCC  
 Director, Clinical Chemistry  
 Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Attendees will be presented with multiple scenarios, ranging from daily issues to acute situations. Each scenario will encourage critical thinking and application of problem-solving skills. The intent is that by providing different scenarios and different approaches, attendees will be better equipped at handling real-life challenges in the chemistry laboratory.

**Session #3**

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

**“Solving Mysteries of the “Other Cells” on CellaVision – A Case Based Approach”**

Guldeep K. Uppal M.D.  
 Assistant Professor  
 Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

The session is aiming at bridging blood smear morphology with flow cytometry and clinical diagnosis. The CellaVision reports abnormal cells as “other cells” which need to be further confirmed and classified; this requires a comprehensive approach. This presentation will include 5 – 7 cases including a variety of diagnosis and highlight the above approach.

**Session #4**

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

**“Blood Shortage Emergency: A Multidisciplinary Approach at Keeping Patients Safe”**

Marcia Marchese, MS, MLS(ASCP)CM  
 Technical Manager, Blood Bank  
 Pennsylvania Hospital, University of Pennsylvania Health System, Philadelphia, PA

Sunilka Thompson, MSN, RN, CPXP  
 Associate Clinical Director, Perianesthesia and Procedural Areas  
 Pennsylvania Hospital, University of Pennsylvania Health System, Philadelphia, PA

This session will cover the current national blood shortage and its effects on patient transfusion needs and surgical procedures. Strategies to maintain safe levels of blood inventory, monitor the blood supply, assess blood requirements, and communicate with patient caregivers will be discussed, including daily review with Perioperative services on future cases before taking patients to the operating room.

**9:45–10:45 AM SESSIONS****Session #5**

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

**“Clinical Advancements in the Emergency Department: Infection & Sepsis”**

Thomas K. Bane, PhD, PPM  
 Director, Medical & Scientific Affairs  
 Beckman Coulter Diagnostics, Brea, California

The diagnosis of sepsis is a complex medical decision requiring the cooperative collaboration and timely flow of accurate information and procedures between several key hospital personnel from nurses to laboratorians to medical specialists to ensure optimal patient outcomes. Approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of suspected sepsis in the ED are government mandated yet vary significantly. We will discuss the current guidelines and the tools available.

**Session #6**

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

**“Considerations for Implementation of High Sensitivity Troponin Assays in a Multi-Hospital System”**

Charlene Bierl MD, PhD  
 Division Director  
 Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

The American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology have designated high sensitivity troponins as the preferred standard for diagnosis of myocardial infarction. High sensitivity troponin assays allow quantitation of troponin in more than 50% of a healthy population, and mild elevations will be observed in patients with elevated risks of cardiac disease, such as diabetes and hypertension. This creates a shift in the diagnostic approach. This session will review a number of considerations to approach this adoption.

**Session #7**

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

**“Direct Oral Anticoagulants: Challenges in the Hemostasis Laboratory”**

Megan Hevelow, MS, MT(ASCP)  
 Clinical Hemostasis Specialist  
 Werfen, Bedford, MA

This session will review Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) currently on the market and their mechanism of action. There will also be discussion of how DOACs may affect routine and special hemostasis testing, along with what testing is available for DOACs in the hemostasis laboratory.

**Session #8**

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

**“Point of Care Testing with a Focus on the Developing World”**

Barbara M. Goldsmith, PhD, FAACC  
 Director, Clinical Labs, POCT, and Quality and Professor and Chair, Medical Laboratory Sciences and Biotechnology  
 Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA

This session will cover background information on Point of Care Testing (POCT) and how testing performed outside of a clinical laboratory can benefit patients with limited access to healthcare

## **11:15 PM–12:15 PM SESSIONS**

### **Session #9**

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

#### **“Let’s Play Dr. House: Interesting Cases in Infectious Diseases”**

Debra L. Powell, MD, MS, FIDSA  
Division Chief of Infectious Diseases, Medical Director for Infection Prevention & Vice Chair Department of Medicine  
Tower Health Reading Hospital, West Reading, PA

Interesting Infectious Disease cases will be presented as unknowns in an interactive forum.

### **Session #10**

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

#### **“Principles and Clinical Applications of Tandem Mass Spectrometry (MS/MS)”**

Douglas F. Strickle, PhD, DABCC  
Professor, Pathology and Director, Chemistry  
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

Mass spectrometry in various forms is an important part of modern laboratory medicine. Tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) is especially versatile, with diverse applications such as therapeutic drug monitoring, forensics, and newborn screening. There is constant development of new testing using MS/MS. This talk will discuss basic principles of MS/MS, different modes of MS/MS, fundamentals of MS/MS assay development (especially as coupled with liquid chromatography (LC-MS/MS), and current and proposed future clinical applications.

### **Session #11**

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

#### **“Myeloproliferative Neoplasms”**

Elizabeth Margolske 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 #12**

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

#### **“DEHP: Historical Perspectives, Current Uses, and Future Alternatives”**

Julie Katz Karp, MD  
Associate Professor, Director of Transfusion Medicine  
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

This session will explore the use of Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP) in red blood cell storage containers. The history of red blood cell storage containers will be briefly reviewed, including the modern reliance on Polyvinylchloride (PVC)-DEHP red blood cell storage bags. The use, metabolism, and toxicity of DEHP will be described and possible replacements for DEHP will be discussed.

## **1:15–2:15 PM SESSIONS**

### **Session #13**

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

#### **“Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Microbiology”**

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

Artificial intelligence is increasingly incorporated into instruments used in clinical microbiology, but the underlying principles of these technologies are not typically part of formal training for laboratorians. Here we will introduce the concept of artificial intelligence and define common terms used in the field. We will additionally identify areas of the clinical microbiology laboratory where artificial intelligence is already making an impact, and finish with a discussion of future use cases.

### **Session #14**

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

#### **“An Epidemic Within a Pandemic: Drug Screening in Philadelphia”**

Emily L. Gill, Ph.D.  
Clinical Chemistry Fellow  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

This session will introduce forensic drug screening methodologies, including immunoassay screening and confirmatory screening by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry. Unexpected findings, such as xylazine in street fentanyl will be discussed including the challenges related to identifying and treating patients with unexpected drug overdoses. The clinical symptoms of an opioid overdose and differential diagnosis will also be discussed, including how unexpected drugs such as xylazine affect treatment strategies, cause unnecessary testing, and pose a significant public health crisis.

**Session #15****Session Code:** \_\_\_\_\_**“Social Determinants of Health & Their Influence on Equity in Laboratory Testing”**Catherine Otto, PhD, MBA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Professor and Program Director

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark, New Jersey

Social determinants of health play a significant role in equity in healthcare delivery, from access to and outcomes for care. Equity is one of the 6 dimensions of healthcare quality that defines patient safety. This session discusses the role of social determinants of health and how it influences laboratory testing services.

**Session #16****Session Code:** \_\_\_\_\_**“Case Studies in the Immunohematology Reference Laboratory and its Role in Transfusion Medicine”**Paul Mansfield MT(ASCP)SBB<sup>CM</sup>, IRL Director

Shraddha Babariya, MD, Regional Medical Director

American Red Cross – Biomedical Services, Penn-Jersey Region

Philadelphia, PA

This session will provide the attendee with an overview of the role of the IRL in the clinical labs. Several case studies involving a G study, an investigation involving a rarely seen specificity, and an antibody to a high prevalence antigen will be explored.

**2:45–3:45 PM SESSIONS****Session #17****Session Code:** \_\_\_\_\_**“The Impact of SARS-CoV-2 Variants and Temporal Viral Shedding on the Utilization of COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests”**

Alan T. Evangelista, PhD, D(ABMM)

Director, Microbiology, Virology, Molecular Diagnostics

St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, Philadelphia, PA

The unique temporal viral shedding of SARS-CoV-2 during a COVID-19 infection will be reviewed along with the impact on the interpretation of COVID antigen, NAA, and RT-PCR tests. The evolution and epidemiology of major variants of concern of SARS-CoV-2, such as Alpha, Delta, and Omicron, will be compared and reviewed with reference to patient outcomes, therapeutics, and vaccine utilization.

**Session #18****Session Code:** \_\_\_\_\_**“Laboratory Auto-verification – A Tool to Enhance Productivity and Improve TATs”**Vipul Shah, MBA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, DLM(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Division Manager, Clinical Labs

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

This session will describe the concept of laboratory auto-verification and how it helps with enhancing the productivity, improved turnaround times and customer satisfaction. The speaker will also discuss CAP requirements for auto-verification and how to comply with them.

**Session #19****Session Code:** \_\_\_\_\_**“Legal Trouble in the Lab: Testing Positive for Fraud”**Stephanie Noblit, Esq., MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Legislative Attorney, Philadelphia, PA

This unique session will cover some of the current legal cases involving clinical laboratories and laboratory testing, including the cases involving Theranos and Elizabeth Holmes. We will discuss what labs are being accused of, how these cases affect our profession and our patients, and how bad actors influence the optics of the clinical laboratory. Open discussion is encouraged.

**Session #20****Session Code:** \_\_\_\_\_**“Convalescent Plasma and Monoclonal Antibody Use in COVID-19”**

Joy Gould, MS, SBB(CP)C, BB, MLT, CQIA(ASQ), CPHQ

Teaching Assistant Professor, Medical Laboratory Sciences and Biotechnology

Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA

With the outbreak of the new respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus, investigational treatments for COVID-19 were needed. One such initial treatment for COVID-19 was convalescent plasma collected from individuals who have recovered from COVID-19, which contains antibodies to SARS-CoV-2. In August of 2020, the use of convalescent plasma was given emergency use authorization by the FDA.



**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.