



e-LABorate is the official quarterly electronic newsletter of the
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Minnesota

April 3, 2011
(Amended 4-8-11:
corrections on
pages 10 and 13)

"A Message from Your President"

~ *Kristi Enerson, ASCLS-MN President*



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Bridging Technology to Quality Healthcare – Clinical Laboratory Collaborative 2011

Submitted by: Steve Mattson, 2011 CLC Co-Chair



What a better way to celebrate National Medical Laboratory Week than to attend the **2011 Clinical Laboratory Collaborative at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, April 25-27!** This year's CLC program is rich, diverse and includes renowned local and national speakers covering... [More....page: 3](#)

Minnesota Laboratory Licensure – A New Start

~ *Kathy Hansen, Co-Chair MN Laboratory Licensure*



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ASCLS-MN Call for Nominations - Your Profession Needs You

~ *Bobbi Kochevar, ASCLS-MN Past-President*



Is this the year for you?? It is time to seriously think about submitting your name or nominating a colleague for consideration to serve in a leadership position for our great professional organization. [More...page: 5](#)

2011 Legislative Symposium – Add It To Your "Bucket List"

~ *Charlotte Romain, Metro Area Jr. Director & Leadership Academy Member*



The 2011 Legislative Symposium was an amazing experience. Had it not been a requirement of the Leadership Academy, I don't know that I would have ever considered taking part in the Legislative Symposium. [More...page: 6](#)

How to Prepare for the 2011 Clinical Lab Collaborative

~ *KauChee Vang, ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair*



Happy Spring to all new and current student members!
On April 25th - 27th, ASCLS-MN will be one of the hosts of the annual Clinical Laboratory Collaborative (CLC) meeting in Duluth, Minnesota at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. As new members... [More...page: 8](#)

Elizabeth Panning Medical Laboratory Science Scholarship Fund

Due to Liz's many contributions to the laboratory profession, including her work with the successful Silent Auction at the Clinical Laboratory Collaborative every year, ASCLS-MN would like to honor our devoted colleague... [More....page: 9](#)





Northwest Area Update

~ *Hannah Roder, NW Area Jr. Director*

Spring greetings to the Northwest region! Our kick-off event on February 20th was a success; we had a great audience, learned what's new in ASCLS and Blood Bank, and welcomed several new members. [More....page: 10](#)



Central Area Update ~ *Karen Renaud, Central Area Sr. Director*

The Central Area held a Winter Education Event on Tuesday evening March 22, 2011. Even though the calendar said it was the first week of Spring, Mother Nature gave us what I hope is the last dose of Winter. [More....page: 10](#)



Southwest Area Update

~ *Robin Spencer, SW Area Sr. Director*

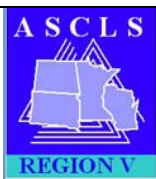
Snow- --cold- --yes, *of course*, it was a winter evening in S.W. Minnesota, but we have come to expect that! In spite of the cold, we shared a spicy, hot chili supper at our first ASCLS Southwest Area meeting... [More....page: 10](#)



Metro Area Update – “Support, Challenge, Accomplishment”

~ *Claudine Fasching; ASCLS-MN Metro Area Sr. Director*

The Metro Area planning committee will soon be holding our last continuing education event for this year. I am looking forward to finishing this year's work, but as I read the call for nominations, I find myself... [More....page: 11](#)



“Life Is Change, Growth Is Optional”

~ *Deb Rodahl, ASCLS Region V Director*

The title of this article has been the by-line to my work e-mail for a few years. It is a reflection of the fact that change is really all around us and we can choose to deal with it proactively and grow, or keep our head in the ... [More....page: 12](#)



Board of Certification News

~ *Kathy Hansen*

The ASCP Board of Certification hired Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} as the new Executive Director of the BOC. Pat replaces Dr. Blair Holladay, who became the Executive Vice President of ASCP. [More....page: 13](#)

**A
Final
Word**

In Remembrance – Elizabeth Marie Panning

(February 10, 1954 – February 28, 2011)

~ *Wayne Lundeen*

As a myriad of family, friends, neighbors, caregivers, colleagues and fellow parishioners gathered together to **Celebrate Elizabeth's Life**, the eloquent eulogy made it quite evident how Liz touched the lives... [More....page: 14](#)

President's Message



“A Message from Your President”

Submitted by: Kristi Enerson, ASCLS-MN President

Now that March is here I have completely caught spring fever. I frantically view the weather channel for signs of warmer weather...anything over 32 degrees is worth celebrating, don't you think? I have started to think about such things as Easter, spring cleaning, yard work and plans for fun outdoor activities. I have started planning for the wonderful opportunity to meet with colleagues at our annual Clinical Laboratory Collaborative (CLC) and to converse with other ASCLS-MN members.

Our Spring **Membership Meeting** will be held **at the CLC on Tuesday, April 26th** at the Duluth Event and Convention Center. During the meeting we will be going over routine business such as Bylaw changes, nominations for ASCLS-MN



ASCLS-MN
Membership
Meeting @ the CLC
Tuesday, April 26th

board positions and celebrating accomplishments of the past year.

ASCLS nationally has made amendments to their Bylaws to add a position of New Professional to the delegate list for the House of Representatives. ASCLS-MN is proposing the following Bylaws changes to Article XI, adding the position of New Professional to the delegate list representing Minnesota at the House of Delegates to be consistent with the national Bylaw changes.

This amendment to the Bylaw was revised and voted on by the ASCLS-MN board on January 22, 2011. It was then submitted to the national Bylaws Committee for review and approval. This change is being published in this State newsletter for members to review prior to the Spring Membership meeting. A 2/3 vote at this meeting is required to adopt these revisions to the Bylaws.

Additions to the current Bylaw are underlined; deletions are crossed out.

Bylaws

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Minnesota

Article XI Representation to ASCLS

- A. Official representation of this Society at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates of ASCLS shall include the president and the president-elect or their alternates together with the elected delegates or their alternates of this Society, ~~and the student delegate,~~ and a new professional delegate.
- F. A student delegate and an alternate shall be chosen each year by the president from recommendations of the student scientific assembly.
- G. A new professional delegate will be the current First Year Professional position from the ASCLS MN board. In addition a New Professional alternate shall be appointed each year by the president from the membership.

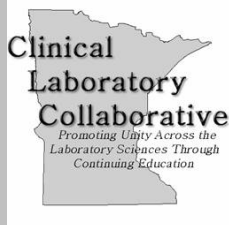
Please contact a member of the ASCLS-MN board with any questions. You may find contact information on the ASCLS-MN website at www.asclsmn.org by clicking on the Board/Leadership title on the left navigation panel of the main page.

I hope to see you at the CLC in Duluth.

Bridging Technology to Quality Healthcare – Clinical Laboratory Collaborative 2011

Submitted by: Steve Mattson, 2011 CLC Co-Chair

What a better way to celebrate National Medical Laboratory Week than to attend the **2011 Clinical Laboratory Collaborative at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, April 25-27!** This year's CLC program is rich, diverse and includes renowned local and national speakers covering topics across our fields and beyond. Coupled with this year's vast selection of continuing education opportunities, we also have a near-capacity **trade show** featuring an exciting array of vendors...this year including an indoor, easy-access opportunity to visit those vendors that have on display large demonstration vehicles. The program architecture this year includes a half-day of programming on Monday, April 25 and full programming days April 26 and 27. There will be multiple opportunities to visit with our vendors, including a Monday evening vendor event with appetizer buffet and cash bar. The Tuesday evening entertainment event will be held at the **Great Lakes Aquarium**, where



CLC – DULUTH
April 25 – 27



attendees will have full access to all exhibits, as well as a selection of hors d'oeuvres and cash bar (\$15 per person).

It is also important to note that this year's silent auction will raise funds for two great causes. First is the Children's Miracle Network that we have supported for many years. The second is the **Elizabeth Panning Memorial Scholarship**, which supports aspiring Medical Laboratory Science professionals. Liz was a fellow laboratorian who helped organize many Silent Auctions in the past. She recently lost her battle with ALS. We are pleased to carry on this meaningful tradition in her name.

For specifics regarding program, registration, accommodations and directions, please visit the ASCLS-MN website: www.asclsmn.org. There is a host of information for all of those planning on attending this year's CLC.

As one of this year's co-chairs, it has been a pleasure working with such a committed team who has been assembling what proves to be a very exciting CLC. We look forward to seeing you here in Duluth!

Minnesota Laboratory Licensure – A New Start

Submitted by: Kathy Hansen, Licensure Coalition Co-Chair

The effort to license laboratory personnel in Minnesota is underway for the 2011-2012 biennium in the Minnesota Legislature. The MN legislature operates in two-year biennial sessions. January 2011 began the next two-year session, which means that we must reintroduce the licensure bill and start the committee process all over again, including going back to the three Senate committees that previously approved the bill in 2009.

In the November 2010 election, the Republicans gained majority control of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Our lobbyist, Vic Moore, has been working hard to identify Republicans, preferably individuals who serve on the health committees in each house, to act as chief authors of the bill. Our previous chief authors were Democrats; they can co-sponsor the bill this year but no longer be chief authors.

The Senate authors are:

Michael Jungbauer (R) District 48, Anoka, East Bethel, Ramsey, Elk River

Michelle Fischbach, (R) District 14, Paynesville

Julie Rosen (R), District 24, Fairmont area

Sean Nienow, (R) District 17, Cambridge, Wyoming, North Branch

John Marty, (D), District 54, Roseville

The last four listed are all members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Potential House co-authors are (we do not have a chief author as of 3/29/11):

Bob Barrett (R), 17B, Shafer

Bruce Vogel (R), 13B, Willmar

Joe McDonald (R), 19B, Delano

Diane Loeffler (D), 59A, Minneapolis

Sandra Peterson (D), 45A, New Hope

Thomas Huntley (D), 7A, Duluth

Larry Hosch (D), 14B, St. Joseph

Patty Fritz (D), Fairibault.

Erin Murphy (D), 64A, St. Paul



All listed are members of the House Health and Human Services Reform Committee except Rep. Vogel.

If you live in the districts represented by any of the sponsors listed above, please email them to thank them for their support. If not, please contact your legislator to voice your support. Grass roots support is extremely important, and it only takes one opponent to sway a legislator unless they also hear from those who support the bill. (See information at the end of this article on how to do this.)

Prior to the start of the session in January, we made a few small revisions to the bill language, which was submitted to the revisor's office to be put in the appropriate format and assigned a bill number. The bill is ready for introduction as soon as we have authors and sponsors identified.

Because of the state's budget situation this year, the legislature is addressing the budget first and not working on policy bills until the budget is resolved. We are unlikely to have hearings on our bill until mid-late April.

Rick Panning, Kathy Hansen, and Vic Moore have met with key stakeholders at the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Hospital Association. We have also been in contact with policy makers at the hospital systems that have opposed the bill in the past: Fairview, Health East, and Mayo. We believe that Mayo and Fairview will remain neutral in this session. We also have strategized with the Minnesota Society for Pathology, where some leaders want to support the bill more actively.

You can **find your senator or representative's contact information** by following these steps:

- Go to the Web site www.leg.state.mn.us
- At the bottom of the page, see Who Represents Me?
- Enter your address in the space given
- Click on the Web page beneath the picture of your state legislator. The Web pages vary, but they always have the location, phone number, and email address.

On the ASCLS-MN website under Government Affairs, you will find a sample letter to use as a template to modify and send to your legislator, go to:

http://www.asclsmn.org/letter_to_your_legislator.html

ASCLS-MN Call for Nominations - *Your Profession Needs You*
Submitted by: Bobbi Kochevar, ASCLS-MN Past-President

Is this the year for you?? It is time to **seriously think about** submitting your name or nominating a colleague for consideration to serve in a leadership position for our great professional organization. Please think carefully about what ASCLS-MN means to you and how you might contribute your talents and services. Participation in ASCLS-MN helps us to **build new relationships** while we work on strategic initiatives to **promote our role as clinical laboratory professionals on the healthcare team**. Participation also enhances personal development by building and strengthening your leadership, communication and organizational skills. The **networking** alone is priceless. Please look over the **opportunities below** and choose a position that interests you...**we need you** 😊!



~Build new relationships

~Promote the laboratory's role as professionals

~Networking



- President-Elect
- Area Director
- National Delegate

“This is one of the best ways to be involved in the future direction of OUR profession.”

President-Elect:

In this position, you will serve one year as president-elect, one year as president and one year as past-president. This is an **exciting** commitment at a high level of service to our professional organization. It is a 3-year commitment with built in support from previous presidents. You’ll be amazed by the energy of the organization both locally and nationally. This position provides **mentorship at the highest level** and you’ll receive formal training from the national organization prior to your year as president. Yes, the commitment is high, but so are the rewards!

Area Senior Directors:

ASCLS-MN is divided into seven areas (regions) to better meet the needs of our members through local, social, and educational opportunities. During this one-year commitment, you will gain a more thorough knowledge of our professional organization, ASCLS and ASCLS-MN. You will be working closely with the State Board of Directors and Scientific Assembly Chairs to plan and hold educational meetings and promote membership in the organization. This is a wonderful way to become more active in your professional organization. Jr. Directors typically move into these positions. However, we currently have Sr. Director **opportunities in the Northwest, West Central, and Southeast areas.**

Area Junior Directors:

This position works closely with the Sr. Director. During this two-year commitment, one year as Jr. Director and one year as Sr. Director, you will gain a more thorough knowledge of our professional organization, ASCLS and ASCLS-MN. You will work closely with the Area Senior Director and Scientific Assembly Chairs to plan and hold educational meetings and promote membership in the organization. This is a wonderful way to become more active in your professional organization.

National Delegates:

Delegates represent Minnesota at the national ASCLS meeting which will be held July 26-30, 2011 in Atlanta, GA. Delegates are expected to attend business meetings and represent Minnesota’s views on the issues. **Delegates vote in elections and on issues presented at the national meeting.** This is an opportunity to see our professional organization at work, promoting the profession and providing leadership at the national level. State organizations are allowed one delegate for each 50 members (this year we will have 8 elected delegates plus the President, President-elect and Student Forum Chair). Each of the ASCLS-MN elected delegates will be given a \$250 stipend for attendance at the meeting.

If you are interested in being involved in ASCLS-MN, please contact Bobbi Kochevar at 612-813-8408 (work) or e-mail at: bobbi.kochevar@childrensmn.org by **April 8, 2011**. Being involved in the decision-making of this organization is a great professional development and networking opportunity. This is one of the best ways to be involved in the future direction of **OUR** profession.

2011 Legislative Symposium – Add It To Your “Bucket List”

Submitted by: Charlotte Romain, Metro Area Jr. Director & Leadership Academy Member



The 2011 Legislative Symposium was an amazing experience. Had it not been a requirement of the Leadership Academy, I don’t know that I would have ever



Charlotte Romain

4 Key Points

1. Thank Legislators for action on CMS physician’s signatures issue

2. Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act

3. Oversight and regulation of Lab developed tests

4. Modernizing the Clinical Dx Lab Fee Schedule

considered taking part in the Legislative Symposium. The idea of going to **Washington D.C.** and talking to members of Congress and their Legislative Aides seems so far outside the scope of anything I have ever done. I was very nervous about both the process and about my ability to speak to the issues that we face in the clinical lab.

ASCLS does an incredible job of preparing its members to do this. We spent an entire day discussing the issues and learning more about how things are done in Washington D.C. We were given prepared handouts to leave with the staff that we spoke with. We were also given sheets with talking points that we could use to start a conversation or refer to for additional information. They even showed us how to get around on Capitol Hill.



There were **4 key points** that we focused on this session. The first was to **thank Senators and Representatives** who had signed on to the letter asking CMS to rescind the requirement of a **physician’s signature** on every hard copy of laboratory requisition.

A second issue we discussed with our representatives was that of the **personnel shortage**. We were asking for congress to **reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**. In reauthorizing funding for the WIA we also asked that Congress include provisions that make institutions of higher learning partners in job creation initiatives, make public institutions of higher education automatically eligible as job-training providers, and designate medical laboratory personnel education programs as one of the group of preferred programs where a large number of job vacancies exist. In Minnesota we were able to give them an example of a training program designed by Allina Hospitals made possible by a Department of Labor grant.

Another issue we discussed was that of **oversight and regulation of laboratory developed tests (LDTs) by the FDA**. The FDA has proposed to take on the task of oversight and regulation of LDTs. The background and scope of this issue is large and complex. We asked Congress that the agency find ways to work with the laboratory community and establish a dialogue in this process. This issue ties in to the whole subject of Genetic Testing and “Personalized Medicine.” We want the members of Congress to automatically think of the laboratory when they see any legislation regarding these topics and to include us in any discussions or decisions that are made.



"I was awed to be walking the hallways of the Senate and House offices..."

[CLC] "...opportunity to see and meet clinical laboratory professionals"

ASCLS-MN on:
facebook

"I invite you to join ASCLS-MN in Duluth to socialize, network, and learn..."

The last topic was **Modernizing of the Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Fee Schedule**. The fee schedule currently in use to reimburse clinical laboratories has not been subject to review since it was established in 1984. Many things have changed in the last 25 years. There was a bill introduced last year that would required the Secretary of Health and Human Services to enter into negotiated rulemaking to modernize the Medicare part B fee schedule for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests. We have been told that this bill will be reintroduced this year and we are asking for support of this.

These are all important issues and I can't possibly do them justice here. I am so lucky to be a member of ASCLS here in Minnesota where we have such strong leadership. We visited our Senators as a delegation so I was able watch the pros in action before I had to visit my Representative on my own. **I was awed to be walking the hallways of the Senate and House offices and to think that I was there with a purpose.** We all do a lot of complaining about the government and to feel like I was actually a part of the process put a whole new spin on things for me.

Of course it wasn't all work. Being in Washington D.C. is amazing in and of itself. We had a few hours to see some of the monuments. There was time over dinner to get to know other laboratorians from Minnesota and from all over the country. We have an incredible network of colleagues out there. **I highly recommend adding the ASCLS Legislative Symposium to your "bucket list."** You'll be amazed at what you can do and what we can all accomplish together.

How to Prepare for the 2011 Clinical Lab Collaborative

Submitted by: KauChee Vang, ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair

Happy Spring to all new and current student members!

On April 25th- 27th, ASCLS-MN will be one of the hosts of the annual Clinical Laboratory Collaborative (CLC) meeting in Duluth, Minnesota at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. As new members and current student members in ASCLS the CLC meeting may be something new to experience, which could be exciting and a little intimidating all at once. However, don't worry because I will provide you with **three tips** from my previous experiences at the 2010 ASCLS national meeting. I invite you to join ASCLS-MN in Duluth to socialize, network, and to learn some of the most updated information concerning our profession.

The first tip is to make sure that you **register early**. The CLC meeting will require all students interested in attending to register. Membership in ASCLS is not required, which means that if you have any classmates, friends, or significant others who may be interested in joining (the more the merrier) then all they have to do is register. The form can be found through the ASCLS-MN website (www.asclsmn.org).

The second tip relates to why you should register early. If student members **sign up before April 15th then the cost for registration is only \$20 per day**. I know as a student, budgeting is a big consideration whenever making any decision. I have discovered that although the meeting is three days long, it is not a requirement to attend all three days. This does not mean that you cannot, it is just a tip for financial consideration. As students in MLT and MLS programs, I would recommend that you to check with your program directors to ask for





Scholarship Information

“...Liz's many contributions to the laboratory profession...”



scholarships that could help pay for registration cost. If you do plan to stay for three days, I would suggest you to arrange for your hotel before you arrive in Duluth. The planning may be worth it, just in case all hotels that are near the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center are booked.

The third tip is to **plan ahead**, but don't stress. Plan ahead to make sure you have **transportation and hotels** arranged. Also, **set a goal to accomplish at the meeting because you want to make the experience as valuable as it can be.** The goal can be as simple as meeting other MLT/MLS students or as ambitious as finding employment at the meeting. Whatever the goal is, try to make the meeting worth it. Also, have lots of fun and meet new people. It will make the experience better.

I hope as a student, these tips will help ease the experience at the CLC meeting. I encourage everyone to consider attending. **This is a major event for ASCLS-MN student members because it gives us the opportunity to see and meet clinical laboratory professionals**, such as our professors, here in Minnesota. Also, the April dates should work for many of us because we know that May and June are usually around the end of our school year, which means finals. Please visit the ASCLS-MN website for detailed information about the CLC event and feel free to contact me for any questions. www.asclsmn.org

Elizabeth Panning Medical Laboratory Science Scholarship Fund



Due to Liz's many contributions to the laboratory profession, including her work with the successful Silent Auction at the Clinical Laboratory Collaborative every year, ASCLS-MN would like to honor our devoted colleague, friend and mentor by using a portion of the funds raised at each CLC Silent Auction for the **Elizabeth Panning Medical Laboratory Scientist Scholarship** fund each year in an effort to continue the scholarship for years to come. The remaining funds raised will continue to support a charity such as the Children's Miracle Network.

Directed donations to this scholarship fund can also be made through ASCLS-MN. We will also be taking donations at the ASCLS-MN membership booth at the CLC in Duluth on April 25-27. Please make checks payable to ASCLS-MN and include information on the check or cover letter that it is to be directed to the Elizabeth Panning MLS Scholarship Fund. We appreciate your support in keeping Liz's memory alive through this continued scholarship. *(Note: Your contribution is completely voluntary and cannot be listed as a charitable contribution for tax purposes.)*

Please direct payments to:
Vickie Larson
ASCLS-Minnesota Treasurer
808 74th Ave No
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444-2667

See tribute to Elizabeth Panning at the end of the newsletter.



Northwest Area

Con-Ed Topics

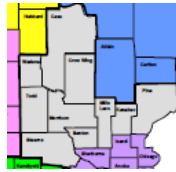
- Blood Banking
- ASCLS



Central Area

Con-Ed Topics

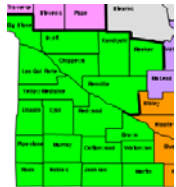
- Troponin
- Fetal Lung Maturity



Southwest Area

Con-Ed Topics

- Primary Hemostasis
- Arthropod-borne viruses
- Biohazard issues



Northwest Area Update

Submitted by: Hannah Roder; NW Area Jr. Director

Spring greetings to the Northwest region!

Our kick-off event on February 20th was a success; we had a great audience, learned what's new in ASCLS and Blood Bank, and welcomed several new members.

Please join us for our next event on April 18th in Bemidji, which will cover tick-related pathogenesis and current ASCLS happenings – see: www.asclsmn.org for more information. We hope to see you in April.

Central Area Update

Submitted by: Karen Renaud, Central Area Sr. Director

The Central Area held a Winter Education Event on Tuesday evening March 22, 2011. Even though the calendar said it was the first week of Spring, Mother Nature gave us what I hope is the last dose of Winter. Luckily, she held off the worst of it until after we were done for the evening.

Dr. Kalen Olson, Lab Director, Regions Hospital gave two presentations to the 35 laboratorians in attendance. The first session was on cardiac Troponin and described the guideline criteria for diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction, discussed the proper ordering patterns and overall utilization of cardiac Troponin testing, and ended with the changes in use of results with the introduction of high sensitivity assays. After a quick break and door prize giveaways, Dr. Kalen switched gears and talked about *The Changing Tide of Fetal Lung Maturity Testing*. This second session described the various types of fetal lung maturity tests and then explained the procedure for lamellar body count for FLM testing.

The evening began with a light supper and after two very informative presentations, everyone made their way home in the last snow storm of the season (knock on wood). We hope to see everyone again in Duluth for the Spring Collaborative!

Southwest Area Update

Submitted by: Robin Spencer, SW Area Sr. Director

Snow- --cold- --yes, of course, it was a winter evening in S.W. Minnesota, but we have come to expect that! In spite of the cold, we shared a spicy, hot chili supper at our first ASCLS Southwest Area meeting held in February.

Dr. Steven Vanderwerf, an anatomic Clinical Pathologist with MN Pathologists Chartered, lectured on "Primary Hemostasis, Review of Physiology, Pathology and Diagnosis". The attentive audience reviewed platelet function, van Willebrand factor, platelet abnormalities and some engaging case studies.

Connie Weston, MS MT (ASCP), Virology Supervisor at MN Fairview University, discussed various arthropod- borne viruses and highlighted biohazard issues in laboratories. She was a great addition to our evening. We appreciated her willingness to share her knowledge!

While I have been active in the laboratory for many years, this is the first role I have accepted as Senior Director for ASCLS-MN in a new division - the Southwest area. Jennifer Fields is the Junior Area Director. It is our desire to bring lab group activities to our area and share some great educational



Metro Area



Correction in red:

SUPPORT
CHALLENGE
ACCOMPLISHMENT

THANK YOU ASCLS!

opportunities.

Who understands our needs better than ourselves? I have attempted to reach the area's ASCLS members, (I know you are out there!) **Membership has a lot to offer!** To get involved and be informed of events, please contact me at rspencer.ascls@charter.net

We are planning another event for August 2011. (It promises to be HOT-- ice cream anyone?)

Metro Area Update – “Support, Challenge, Accomplishment”

Submitted by: Claudine Fasching; ASCLS-MN Metro Area Sr. Director

The Metro Area planning committee will soon be holding our last continuing education event for this year. I am looking forward to finishing this year's work, but as I read Bobbi **Kochevar's** call for nominations, I find myself taking time to reflect on what my participation and volunteering in both the area and state level of ASCLS has meant to me. I am sure many of you have heard it said, **'when you volunteer you receive much more than you give'**. This has been true for me. There are three words that come to my mind; support, challenge, and accomplishment.

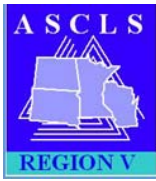
SUPPORT – The feeling that an entire organization supports me. How awesome is that! **ASCLS wants me to be as successful as I possibly can be.** I have personally felt this through every person I have had the chance to work with throughout the ASCLS organization. Sharing volunteer duties during planning sessions, sharing rides to meetings, and sharing information and insights have all provided me the feeling of many people who have my interest at heart.

CHALLENGE – My comfort zone is where I like to be. In my comfort zone, I don't have to worry if I will be successful. Truth be told, I had been in my comfort zone for quite a few years. The problem with being in my comfort zone was that I was not growing personally or professionally. **Being part of ASCLS gave me an avenue to get out of my comfort zone.** When I became a member of the Metro Area Planning Committee I found I could do a little stretching of my boundaries with out too much pain. Once you start stretching – watch out! I learned I could acquire new skills, all while being apprehensive and successful at the same time.

ACCOMPLISHMENT – Those of you who know me know I am of the pre-certification maintenance era. Actually, more like the pre-pre-certification era, I graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1978. With the new BOC, came the opportunity that oldsters like me could voluntarily switch from my current lifelong certification to a **MLS(ASCP)^{CM}**. I pondered the choice. I really liked the idea of keeping up with the youngsters. But, the thought of committing to taking CE credits in areas I have not worked (like hematology and blood bank) since my internship made me a bit hesitant. I approached the dilemma by attending the 2010 CLC and going to as many 'not me' sessions as I could. Something wonderful happened. I enjoyed those sessions more than had ever anticipated. How things have changed since 1978, **and it was exciting to learn about all the new things in the laboratory.** I completed the required work and changed my certification to **MLS(ASCP)^{CM}**. I have a great feeling of accomplishment.

ASCLS has helped me feel supported, challenged, and accomplished.

THANK YOU ASCLS!



A Message from our Region V Director



Deb Rodahl

“With ASCLS you have the support of peers and the network of thousands to make a difference and grow in your profession!”

“Life is Change, Growth is Optional!”

Submitted by: Deb Rodahl, ASCLS Region V Director - January, 2010

The title of this article has been the by-line to my work e-mail for a few years. It is a reflection of the fact that change is really all around us and we can choose to deal with it proactively and grow, or keep our head in the sand and stagnate. We all understand that in today’s world change is a constant, and it may not always be “desired”. Change that helps us achieve our goals is good, but change that impedes our goals can be a challenge. As I look at the history of all the legislative or regulatory changes that have impact for the laboratory, it is clear that not all proposed changes are good. As individuals, dealing with change can be intimidating and frustrating – leading to a victim mentality or ostrich-like coping mechanism. Dealing with change as part of a larger group provides a supporting network to help navigate the change or can even help change the outcome. The adage that there is “strength in numbers” certainly applies to the value of membership in a professional organization like ASCLS.

ASCLS represents laboratory professionals across the US. Membership benefits include local, regional, and national continuing education and access to the latest updates on technology, new testing, and other health care news of interest to the laboratory profession through paper and e-newsletters, journals, and list-serv type group e-mails. Even more importantly the value of strength in numbers is imperative if we are to be heard when dealing with legislative or regulatory changes that impact the laboratory. ASCLS is recognized by other professional organizations for our government “savyness” and networking skills to navigate the various government agencies. ASCLS partners with other laboratory and healthcare organizations to represent our interests in Washington, DC. Two years ago we successfully “changed” the plans for **Competitive Bidding for laboratory services**. This required the efforts of all laboratory groups and their members to educate congress to help fight this battle. I am proud to have been an ASCLS member that saw our efforts come to fruition.

This winter we were faced with yet another government challenge that would have required **physician signatures** on laboratory requisitions. This was announced in November with an expectation that all labs would be compliant by January. It was an unreasonable request in an unreasonable time-frame. This time the laboratory professional organizations joined with other associations representing Long Term Care, Assisted Living, and the Home Health Care industry along with the American Medical Association. **We made a difference and CMS has announced a decision to rescind this requirement**. We were successful due to the efforts of many people coordinated by their individual professional organizations. Professional Organizations can make a difference!! **Life IS Change and Growth IS Optional**. With ASCLS you have the support of peers and the network of thousands to make a difference and grow in your profession!

Life is Change, Growth is Optional!
ASCLS is there for you!

It is truly an honor to be representing Region V in ASCLS. I enjoy hearing from our members (or non-members) and can be reached at drodahl@earthlink.net 651-779-8906



Board of Certification News

Submitted by: Kathy Hansen

The ASCP Board of Certification hired Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} as the new Executive Director of the BOC. Pat replaces Dr. Blair Holladay, who became the Executive Vice President of ASCP. Pat was formerly the manager of examination activities for the BOC. Blair, a cytotechnologist, is the first non-physician to head the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

There has been much discussion of the requirements for certification maintenance (recertification) since the merger of NCA and the ASCP Board of Registry. NCA accepted all laboratory-related continuing education and the BOR had a requirement for generalists to have a distribution of credits among the major areas of the laboratory. Randomly selected certificants from both NCA and BOR origins were surveyed as to their opinion of the distribution requirements. (About 55 Minnesotans responded.) Results of the survey, taken in summer/fall 2010, support the continued use of continuing education distribution requirements for generalist certification. No official action has been taken by the BOC, but it is likely that the current distribution requirements will remain in place for MLS and MLT. See the web site for details. <http://ascp.org/FunctionalNavigation/certification/CertificationMaintenanceProgramCMP.aspx>

The “membership voucher” program which had allowed certificants who had been ASCP members for three years to recertify at no charge **will be discontinued 12/31/11**. The program was contrary to the accreditation requirement that certification and membership be completely separated. The ASCP re.member program continues in place, but it does not include any discount on recertification, only access to a program that reminds certificants how long they have until recertification and what distribution requirements remain to be fulfilled. (Regardless of membership in any organization, everyone who is due to recertify should receive reminders by email and mail.)

Numbers of applications for examinations and especially numbers of those recertifying were both up significantly in 2010 following the merger with NCA.

The full BOC will see customer service metrics such as phone wait times, turnaround times for exam applications, turnaround times for recertification applications, etc, at its meeting on April 2 and 3, 2011. An advisory committee will be formed to work with staff on web site improvement. Scott Aikey (ASCLS) will be a member of this committee. An advisory committee of program directors will be established.

Because there has been confusion about the new terminology for the B.S. degree generalist, let me remind you that **the MLS(ASCP)^{CM} title is to be used only by those who participate in certificate maintenance (recertification)**. Those who were ASCP certified prior to 1/1/2004 [and choose not to participate in recertification still use the title MT (ASCP)]. Since NCA always required recertification every three years, the last CLS (NCA) titles will expire in August 2012, three years after the merger. Expired NCA credentials can be reinstate by completing certificate maintenance and converting to MLS (ASCP)^{CM}. The use of the CM superscript for other certifications is similarly only to be used by those who recertify.

As always, feel free to contact me with questions.

Kathy Hansen, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} Khansen3@fairview.org

Correction in red:

“...the MLS(ASCP)^{CM} title is to be used only by those who participate in certificate maintenance (recertification).”



**A
FINAL
WORD**

“During her 31 year career....Liz shared her passion in being an integral team member of patient care.”

In Remembrance – Elizabeth Marie Panning

(February 10, 1954 – February 28, 2011)

Submitted by: Wayne Lundeen

As a myriad of family, friends, neighbors, caregivers, colleagues and fellow parishioners gathered together to **Celebrate Elizabeth’s Life**, the eloquent eulogy made it quite evident how Liz touched the lives of everyone around her. As we struggled with our emotional loss, we found strength in our fellowship to pay tribute to Liz and honor her legacy.

Liz graduated from Hamline University and did her Medical Technology internship at St Paul Ramsey Medical Center. During her **31 year career as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist with Regions Hospital**, Liz shared her passion in being an integral team member of patient care. Liz was a consummate true professional, providing quality passionate care, sharing her knowledge and work ethics, demonstrating her skills, and mentoring students, colleagues and other healthcare professionals at all levels of the health care team. Her aura of benevolence impacted those around her and provided a catalyst to relieve the daily stressful work environment with her bubbly personality and cheerful timely words of encouragement and humor.

Elizabeth’s **family was her pride and joy** and Liz was proud to share insights into their lives and accomplishments. Allison and Kate's lives provide testament to Liz’s nurturing care and guidance. Liz enjoyed her flowers and gardening, singing in the sanctuary choir, serving on the church council, teaching Sunday school and being a Sunday school superintendent. Liz also enjoyed her daughter’s recitals and concerts, their tennis matches and all of their school and community activities. Liz was also an avid Twins fan who had tickets to attend a preseason game in Ft Myers Florida during their yearly spring vacation. In spite of their busy schedules, they always took time for family vacations to Gull Lake, the North Shore and coastal warm white sand beaches.

And then of course there is Rick, her loving devoted husband who as both of them would joke about, *“never seemed to hold down a steady job”*. We would be remiss if we neglect the supportive partnership role Liz provided as Rick vaulted his professional career “up the ladder” through top positions in several organizations and societies. Liz was instrumental in numerous ASCLS-MN silent auctions and fund raisers for the Children’s Miracle Network.

Although ALS cut her career short, her legacy as a truly professional Clinical Laboratory Scientist, lives on in her colleagues and friends. On June 2, 2010, **Regions Hospital** commemorated her contributions to Laboratory Medicine by ceremoniously dedicating the pathology conference room with a plaque **Elizabeth Panning Laboratory Conference Room**.

For those who did not know of Elizabeth’s struggles with ALS, I encourage you to visit her Caring Bridge website <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lizpanning> in which Rick recorded a periodic journal of her ordeal. Liz always kept her smile and shared hugs with her ever expanding extended family of friends. This host of friends and neighbors helped support Liz and her family through these last 17 months, assisting in her care-giving as her needs arose. Liz appreciated their dedication which allowed her to spend valuable time with family and friends. Many of these volunteers were part of the 100+ proud members of **“Team Panning”** who wore their embossed bright red T-shirts at the annual **Walk to defeat ALS-Minneapolis** at Lake Harriet. Liz participated in this event



riding in her wheelchair and rewarded with a spontaneous victory arch “tunnel” from fellow volunteers as they raised over \$7800 for ALS.

In recognition of Elizabeth’s contributions to laboratory medicine, Rick, Allison and Kate have established the “**Elizabeth Panning Medical Laboratory Science Scholarship Fund**”. The first \$500 scholarship will be awarded at this year’s annual meeting, followed by \$1000 the following year.

A common theme was quite prevalent during the fellowships shared at her memorial that as we meet along the pathways of life, laugh at the joys of life, comfort each other in times of need and sorrow, smile and listen to the lessons we learn from each other, mentor the knowledge and inspiration we receive to those who follow our footsteps, acknowledge each other with love and respect, and last but not least, share a heartfelt hug with those around you. It not only feels good, but it is good for your soul.

With fervent **thanks for being a part of our lives**, we all hope to keep her memory alive within each of us and thereby pay tribute to Elizabeth’s Legacy and the inspiration that she shared with all of us!

Newsletter Editor



Editor of ASCLS-MN e-LABorate Newsletter is Paula (Snippes) Vagnone. If you have any comments or questions, please contact her at: paula683@yahoo.com