



e-LABorate

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

August 17, 2011
(Amended
8-22-11:
correction on
pg. 1, article 5)



"A Message from Your Past-President"

~ *Kristi Enerson, ASCLS-MN Past-President*

This past year has gone so fast...I think that is a reoccurring message from all of the Presidents as they are leaving the office of ASCLS-MN. I want to take a moment to thank all of the "seasoned" leaders within ASCLS ... [More: page 3](#)



2011 ASCLS National Annual Meeting – Through the Eyes of the New ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair

~ *Carl Sterud, ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair*

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Bridging Technology to Quality Healthcare – Clinical Laboratory Collaborative 2011 – Final Update

Submitted by: Linda Perry, 2011 CLC Co-Chair

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~ *Pat Powers, CLC Silent Auction Planning Committee Chair*

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ASCLS-MN - Election Results for 2011-2012

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Journey in the Leadership Academy

~ *Jess Peters, Leadership Academy Participant 2010-2011*

In a conference room across the country in Anaheim, California, I was sitting with seven strangers going over the schedule that we would be following for the next year. As introductions were under way, I could not help but wonder, "What did I get myself into?" [More: page 8](#)



A Heartfelt Farewell and an Exciting Welcoming

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

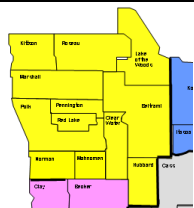
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ASCLS-MN Scholarship Awardees

~ *Lorna Ruskin, ASCLS-MN Scholarship Committee Chair*

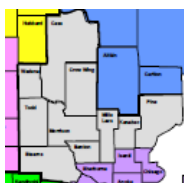
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Northwest Area Update

~ *Hannah Roder, NW Area Sr. Director*

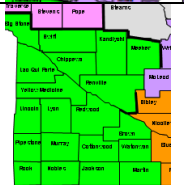
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Central Area Update

~ *Karen Renaud, Central Area Past-Sr. Director [President-Elect]*

Please save the date and mark your calendars! The **Central Region Fall CE event will be on Oct 27th at the CentraCare Health Plaza in St. Cloud.** Barb Connell from Sysmex will be speaking, with a second... [More: page 11](#)



Southwest Area Update

~ *Robin Spencer, SW Area Sr. Director*

"What have we learned in the past ten years in the field of emergency preparedness? Do your labs have the necessary policies in place and are your personnel adequately trained in these policies? ... [More: page 12](#)



Metro Area Update

~ *Charlotte Romain, Metro Area Sr. Director*

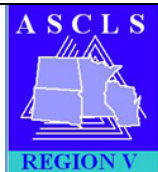
I am Charlotte Romain and I am the Senior Director this year for the Metro Area. I am so excited to have Sue Iddings as my Junior Director. I just returned from the ASCLS National Meeting and am all revved up... [More: page 12](#)



MN Personnel Licensure Update

~ *Rick Panning, Co-Chair MN Laboratory Licensure*

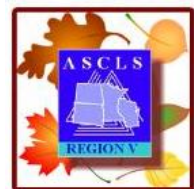
Although it might appear that there was little to no licensure action in the 2011 legislative session, our lobbyist Vic Moore would beg to differ. First of all, we all need to understand that, with a few exceptions, the entire ... [More: page 13](#)



"What's New in ASCLS? ~ ASCLS is there for you!"

~ *Deb Rodahl, ASCLS Region V Director*

"Life is Change, Growth is Optional" has been one of my by-lines this year and this month takes another twist on this theme. The ASCLS National Meeting was recently held in Atlanta, Georgia from July 26th – 30th.... [More: page 13](#)



2011 ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium – Fargo, North Dakota

Dates: October 13 and 14 2010

Location: Fargo North Dakota

Go to the ASCLS Region V website for more information:

<http://www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting/id51.html>

[More: page 15](#)

The Final Word

Are You A Mentor?

~ *Claudine Fasching, Metro Area Past-Sr. Director* Last month I attended a retirement celebration in Chicago. The lucky retiree had lived and worked in the Twin City area for many years, but for the past 19 years has worked in Chicago. I was so excited to attend ... [More: page 16](#)



President's Message



Kristi Enerson

"It has been an honor to serve as your President and I look forward to continued involvement with ASCLS-MN. "

"A Message from Your Past-President"

Submitted by: Kristi Enerson, ASCLS-MN Past-President

This past year has gone so fast...I think that is a reoccurring message from all of the Presidents as they are leaving the office of ASCLS-MN.

I want to take a moment to thank all of the "seasoned" leaders within ASCLS for their assistance and mentoring during the year. Bobbi Kochevar, Cindy Johnson, Deb Rodahl and JoAnn Nickles have given me tremendous support and assistance over the past year. The amount of talent that lies within ASCLS-MN is truly amazing.

That talent and commitment of laboratory professionals from the state of Minnesota was evident as I saw members accept their awards at the annual membership meeting in Duluth (Clinical Laboratory Collaborative) in April. It continued to ring true at the awards ceremony at the national meeting held in Atlanta, GA at the end of July. Please take a moment to thank those recognized for their hard work and commitment to our profession over the last year.

	State	Regional	National
Keys to the Future	Sue Iddings		
	Charlotte Romaine		
	KauChee Vang		
Omicron Sigma	Claudine Fasching	Jean Bauer	Kathy Hansen
	Yukiko Goto	Rose Curie	Tom Massman
	Lisa Kappenman	Kristi Enerson	Carol McCoy
	Vickie Larson	Cindy Johnson	Dan Olson
	Steve Mattson	KauChee Vang	Rick Panning
	Sharon Pendergrass		Debra Rodahl
	Linda Perry		Paula Vagnone
	Karen Renaud		
	Linda Welk		
Member of the Year	Jean Bauer		JoAnn Nickles - nominee
National Leadership Academy Graduates			Jessica Peters
			Charlotte Romaine
Student Forum Leadership Award			KauChee Vang
New Professional Member of the Year			Yukiko Goto - nominee
Promotion of the Profession			MN - 1st place
Robin H. Mendelson Memorial Award			Carol McCoy
Constituent Society Publication Awards			MN - 2nd place

At the national meeting, the House of Delegates unanimously approved the concept of a combined organization of ASCLS and CLMA. They also approved that the respective governing boards jointly proceed over the next few months with implementation and transition planning, utilizing due diligence on legal modeling and a financial pro forma. This is an exciting time and a great opportunity to join forces! You will be hearing more about this over the next year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christine Hinz christine.hinz@allina.com , ASCLS-MN President; Deb Rodahl drodahl@earthlink.net , Region V Director; or myself enersonk@centracare.com , ASCLS-MN Past-President.



MN Contingency to the ASCLS Annual Meeting 2011

As of August, 1, 2011, Christine Hinz is your new President of ASCLS-MN. Christine has been active in the organization for years and has fulfilled many positions within ASCLS-MN. As a past national Leadership Academy graduate and Lead Hematologist at Abbott Northwestern, her leadership around the core values of ASCLS is apparent.

It has been an honor to serve as your President and I look forward to continued involvement with ASCLS-MN. [back to page 1](#)



Christine Hinz



2011 ASCLS National Annual Meeting – Through the Eyes of the New ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair

Submitted by: Carl Sterud, ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair

I think it would be hard for a student to go to their first annual conference and not be left in a sort of awe at the profession. If there is one overarching message that comes through loud and clear at a large conference like this, it is that Clinical Lab Science has the potential to be much more than just a job; it is a career path with huge opportunities. The science being presented, the extraordinary careers that many professionals are leading, and the commitment that many feel to the field is really amazing to experience from a newcomer’s perspective. I also became aware for the first time of the many issues that ASCLS members are fighting for, such as licensure and public awareness of the profession.

The structure of the annual meeting was similar to smaller regional meetings that I have attended, being a mix of governance meetings, scientific sessions, professional development seminars, and an accompanying vendor expo. After the formal program there were many opportunities to network and socialize with colleagues at both scheduled receptions and impromptu dinners and outings around Atlanta.

But this being the annual meeting, everything was on a huge scale. At the vendor expo there were approximately 650 exhibits covering the area of several football fields featuring all the latest in laboratory technology. There were over 45 scientific sessions throughout the week covering the whole range of clinical laboratory science disciplines. Governance meetings ranged from a full slate of student forum meetings to the final ASCLS House of Delegates voting meeting on the last day of the conference.



Carl Sterud

“... Clinical Lab Science has the potential to be much more than just a job; it is a career path with huge opportunities.”



“Anyone can have a “job”- we have all the prospects of a professional career before us.”

Needless to say, as a student just starting his second year, I was in wonder at all this activity and sometimes it was, quite frankly, over my head. While my primary focus was on the required student forum activities, I made sure to add a diverse mix of scientific sessions, “big picture” governance meetings, and many career development seminars to my schedule. I wanted to make sure that I understood where my degree could take me in the future and get a general feel for what was going on in the field.

One of these sessions was particularly interesting from a student’s perspective. It was a four person panel called “Career Options for the Medical Laboratory Scientist”. The panelists each described how, from a first degree in MLT or MLS and early work as a bench technologist, their careers had grown quite unexpectedly into something they hadn’t imagined. One panelist was working for the Department of Health and Human Services and the CDC and was involved with industry regulatory issues. Another panelist described her gradual migration over to the vendor side, describing her R&D experiences working with mechanical and software engineers to design analyzers. Other members of the panel and gallery described moving into administration or IT, becoming an educator, or simply moving into a deep specialization in one of the areas of Clinical Lab Science such as Hematology or Microbiology.

So where could my entry level degree take me? The answer dawned on me early in the third day of the meeting: **Anywhere**. It was clear then that all of the ASCLS members around me understood this and were working together to promote the profession. Through education, advocacy on Capitol Hill, through scientific advances, through networking, or through hard work at the regional and state levels, it was evident how much the members all around me cared about this profession. It would have been almost impossible for a first-time attendee of a national conference to miss this core message.

So as we students head to the lab for fall semester and start thinking about tests, interviews, and practicals, I urge you to keep the big picture in mind. We are just learning the basics on the road to almost unlimited possibilities. Anyone can have a “job”- we have all the prospects of a professional career before us.

My email address: csterud@yahoo.com

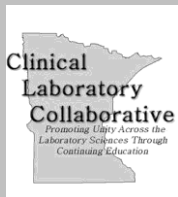
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Bridging Technology to Quality Healthcare – Clinical Laboratory Collaborative 2011

Submitted by: Linda Perry, 2011 CLC Co-Chair



The passing of time is a relative thing. What one person interprets as fact, another may interpret as something completely different. For example, Have you ever been at work and heard someone say, “Oh wow, this shift is just flying by!”, while you are sitting there thinking, “This is the longest shift of my *entire* life, would someone *please* come and put me out of my misery.” The same thing can happen when referring to a year. One moment you have a brilliant idea, thengreen grass....orange leaves October Turkeys Snowreindeer....January....ice.....cold winds.....march...dirty slush.....green grass ...April. Now it is time for that idea to come to life for all to see. That’s what it was like planning this year Clinical Laboratory Collaborative. We started with a great idea, found some other people that believed in our idea, got together for some laughs and *BOOM*.....its April. SHOW TIME!!





"...attendance was outstanding with 475 individual registrations..."

"...looking forward to seeing you next year at Mystic Lake."

This year's CLC theme was "Bridging Technology with Quality Healthcare". The event was held at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center in the Edmund Fitzgerald Exhibit Hall. When you stepped into the hall you were greeted with a dizzying array of blue...black...white...gray...silver. Everywhere you turned there was a bit of flare. In the center of the room was a towering 14 foot tall aerial lift bridge made entirely out of balloons looming over a stage draped in electric blue cloth. Around the stage this year was our golden circle of vendors ready and willing to chat you up and fill your bags with gifts and treats. We had a total of 61 vendors this year along with five mobile laboratories that were located in the parking lot. Our program committee did a stellar job providing a solid venue of speakers that covered a large amount of interests. The attendance was outstanding with 475 individual registrations and if I had to guess by the smiles on everyone's faces, I'd say that a good time was had by all.

The **social event** this year was held on Tuesday evening at the Great Lakes Aquarium. There was a cash bar along with some excellent hors d'oeuvres provided by *Savories*. Everyone was treated to a musical trio made up of members of the *Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra* along with the beautiful backdrop of thousands of fish in many varieties. As an added bonus, this year we also played "**Minute to Win It**". People from all over our great region came up one by one and attempted to complete tasks such as: keeping three balloons in the air for 60 seconds without hitting the ground once, stacking 5 baby blocks on top on one another on a plate that was balanced on the top of their head or removing every bit from two rolls of streamers by flapping their arms like a bird.

This year was also a time for milestones. We had the first ever Liz Panning Memorial Scholarship Raffle as well as an incredibly generous and greatly successful silent auction benefitting the Children's Miracle Network. Both events showcased how large of heart we laboratorians are. We raised a record amount of money for both of these worthy causes. Whether you were there for one day or you stuck it out for all three, we hope you took something positive with you when you left our get together and we are all looking forward to seeing you next year at Mystic Lake. [back to page 1](#)



CLC Silent Auction Is A Success

Submitted by: Pat Powers, CLC Silent Auction Planning Committee Chair

The Silent Auction held at the Clinical Laboratory Collaborative (CLC) in Duluth was a huge success; raising over \$2000 for the new Elizabeth Panning Scholarship and the Children's Miracle Network. There was a tremendous selection of items for auction as contributors graciously donated "theme baskets" and creative items that were handmade, as well as tickets and gift cards. The committee is very grateful for those laboratories, vendors, and individuals who donated so many lovely articles. There was a lot of fun and competition at the bidding tables, which provided for some very happy "winners."





The next silent auction will be held at the CLC – Mystic Lake – next spring. Your donations, creativity and energetic bidding will make it happen!



Reminder: directed donations to the **Elizabeth Panning MLS Scholarship Fund** can also be made through ASCLS-MN. 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

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ASCLS-MN - Election Results 2011-2012

Submitted by: Bobbi Kochevar, Co-Chair of the Membership Committee

The election of officers and delegates to the ASCLS National Meeting was held during the annual business meeting at the Spring Clinical Laboratory Collaborative held in Duluth on April 26, 2011. We are thankful for all the leaders who served in positions on the state Board of Directors in the past year and are thrilled that several have chosen to continue their service. There are still a couple openings on the list for leadership positions. **Any ASCLS-MN member interested in representing ASCLS-MN in any of these positions should contact Christine Hinz at Christine.hinz@allina.com or Bobbi Kochevar at bobbi.kochevar@childrensmn.org.**

The following ASCLS-MN members were elected to the state offices. The 12 month term started August 1, 2011.

- President Elect: **Karen Renaud, FirstLight Health System, Mora**
- Central Junior Director: **Sheri Meyer-Orr, CentraCare, Sauk Rapids**
- Metro Junior Director: **Sue Iddings, Ridgeview Medical Center, Waconia**
- Northeast Junior Director: **Linda Perry, SMDC, Superior, WI**
- Northwest Junior Director: **Linda Welk, Altru, Newfolden**
- Southeast Senior Director: **Joan Converse, Argosy, Spring Valley**
- Southeast Junior Director: **OPEN**
- Southwest Junior Director: **Jenny Field, ACMC, Danube**
- West Central Junior Director: **OPEN**

The following ASCLS-MN members served as **Delegates** to represent our State Society at the **ASCLS National Meeting** held in Atlanta, Georgia in July. Each state is entitled to three delegates: President, President-Elect and Student Delegate. In addition, each state organization is allowed one delegate for every 50 members (based upon membership as of May 31, 2011).

- President: Kristi Enerson
- President Elect: Christine Hinz
- Student Delegate: Carl Sterud



Bobbi Kochevar





Jess Peters and Charlotte Romain – Leadership Academy 2010-2011

Delegates:

1. Jean Bauer
 2. Cindy Johnson
 3. Tom Massmann
 4. Carol McCoy
 5. JoAnn Nickles
 6. Dan Olsen
 7. Jessica Peters
- Alternate: Rick Panning
Alternate: Vickie Larson

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Journey in the Leadership Academy

Submitted by: Jess Peters, Leadership Academy Participant 2010-2011

In a conference room across the country in Anaheim, California, I was sitting with seven strangers going over the schedule that we would be following for the next year. As introductions were under way, I could not help but wonder, **“What did I get myself into?”** What I soon learned was that I got myself into a year full of **hard work, learning, friendship and fun.** I was starting my journey as a member of the 2010-2011 ASCLS Leadership Academy.

Our group started our adventure at the **ASCLS National Meeting in Anaheim.** We met before the meeting started, first getting to know each other a bit, and then moving into sessions on different leadership topics. We learned about the history of our profession as well as ASCLS. I quickly found out there is so much to learn about where ASCLS has been and with everything that they are involved. We finished up with sessions on leadership and communication styles and then were set loose to enjoy the convention.

The group got together next in **Washington D.C.** where we embarked on the **Legislative Symposium.** We had sessions on team building and networking and also attended the Board of Director’s meeting. Attending the Board of Director’s meeting was a great opportunity to see the business of the organization and to really see the process of how decisions are made and how things get done. The Legislative Symposium as a whole was a very unique and interesting experience. It provided me with a push to step outside my usual comfort zone and participate in something I would otherwise not have chosen to do on my own. I learned a great deal about issues that affect our profession and was given the opportunity to use my own voice to talk to my legislatures.



Leadership Academy Class of 2010-2011

In between our in person meetings we also partook in **conference calls.** We had three conference calls throughout the year on time management and organization, mentoring and conflict management. The conference calls gave



“It has helped me to take the next step in developing myself and getting involved within ASCLS.”

ASCLS-MN is on:
facebook

us a chance to learn new topics, but also to check in with each other. In addition we were hard at work completing several assignments and book reports throughout the year, as well as completing our year-long group project.

Our year concluded in **Atlanta, Georgia**. We had more sessions covering advocacy, recruitment and strategic planning. We were also given the chance to take the work we had done on our project for the year and present it during a session at the conference. Our group project was to package the Leadership Academy to make it available to states and regions so that more members are able to take advantage of the program at a local level. It was great to see the enthusiasm from so many on our project, and see so many interested in developing the future leaders of this organization. Finally, we were able to celebrate our hard work by being recognized at the award ceremony in front of our peers.

Although we did spend a great deal of the year working hard, we also had fun doing it. In our sessions we did exciting activities that broke things up. We were allowed free time at the different meetings where we would partake in activities as varied as visiting **Downtown Disney**, viewing **Washington Monuments**, and even dining out at a winning **Top Chef’s restaurant**. Overall, it was a great experience for me. Not only did I increase my general leadership knowledge, but I also formed lasting friendships with so many new people that I would not have had the opportunity to meet without the program. It has helped me to take the next step in developing myself and getting involved within ASCLS. I thank everyone who has helped me along this path, and I am grateful for this journey. [back to page 1](#)



A Heartfelt Farewell and an Exciting Welcoming
Submitted by: KauChee Vang, ASCLS-MN Past- Student Forum Chair

It has been my pleasure to serve as Minnesota’s ASCLS Student Forum Chair (SFC). I have to say I am glad I started early as a student leader in exploring this professional society. I advise many of you to take on leadership roles or become an active member of this or another professional society. It will give you a good perspective as to how you can make a difference in your profession.

Looking back on this year, I am thankful for many opportunities within ASCLS-MN. I started my term with an unforgettable experience in Anaheim, California. I met student members outside of MN that are now my friends and I still keep in touch with them. I learned quickly about the importance of being a student in a professional society after I returned from Anaheim. I would have to say there are people in this society that really care about our profession.

I encourage us, future leaders, to keep our eyes wide opened for opportunities that need us. Thank you for allowing me to be your SFC for 2010-11. I hope all of the monthly emails, Facebook updates, quizzes, and posts, and the video clip at Student Night were all informative and worthwhile. It has been a great experience and I cannot wait to see more for ASCLS-MN student forum, especially now with our next SFC, Carl Sterud csterud@yahoo.com .

Carl is a medical laboratory technician (MLT) student at St. Paul College. Carl entered this health career with a banking background. He has a strong interest in how he can contribute to healthcare. Carl mentioned to me through email that he is excited about the ASCLS Student Forum position and "is looking forward to representing his peers’ interests within and outside of the



Scholarships



Tammy Kippley
*Elizabeth Panning
Scholarship Winner*



Mickayla Cotter
*Claussen Scholarship
Winner*



Nicholas Blonigen
*MSP Scholarship
Winner*



Heather Schmitz
*ASCLS Scholarship
Winner*



association." I am optimistic about his term and I hope you will join me in welcoming Carl as our SFC for 2011-12.

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ASCLS-MN Scholarship Awardees

Submitted by: Lorna Ruskin, ASCLS-MN Scholarship Committee Chair

The ASCLS-MN Scholarship Committee was able to award **four** scholarships to Medical Laboratory Science students this year.

\$500 – Elizabeth Panning Scholarship: Tammy Kippley

From Saint Cloud, MN and attended North Dakota State University with her clinical rotation at Fairview Health Services

"I am a student at NDSU majoring in Medical Laboratory Science with minors in Microbiology and Chemistry. I am originally from Saint Cloud, Minnesota. I am the 5th child of 7 with two brothers and four sisters. In my free time I enjoy being outside, playing the piano, and running. I look forward to completing my undergrad and applying my knowledge to help others!"

\$500 – Claussen Scholarship: Mickayla Cotter

From Star Prairie, WI and attended UW-La Crosse with her clinical rotation at Fairview Health Services

"Grew up in Osceola, Wisconsin, a small town in Western Wisconsin. After graduation, I went to the Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse where I pursued a degree in the sciences. In May of 2011, I graduated with a degree in Biology with a Biomedical Sciences emphasis and a minor in Chemistry. I am currently a second degree-seeking student with an internship at Fairview Health Services in Minneapolis, Minnesota studying Medical Laboratory Science. After graduation, I hope to work in the Twin Cities area."

\$500 – MN Society of Pathologists (MSP) Scholarship: Nicholas Blonigen

From Saint Cloud, MN and attended St. Cloud University with his clinical rotation at Hennepin County Medical Center

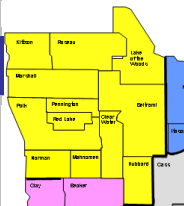
"I am a CLS major at Saint Cloud State University. Going into college I wasn't set on any particular degree, but after shadowing a medical technologist I instantly knew clinical laboratory science was for me. I am currently entering the clinical phase of my schooling, and will start my internship at Hennepin County Medical Center this fall. I am extremely grateful for the scholarship and excited to start my career as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist."

\$500 – ASCLS Scholarship: Heather Schmitz

From St. Paul, MN and attended the University of Minnesota with her clinical rotation through the CLS/MT program - U of MN

"Heather Schmitz is a student at the University of Minnesota majoring in Clinical Laboratory Science and a member of ASCLS. At the University of Minnesota, she works in a laboratory in the Otolaryngology department imaging mice cochleas. She also volunteers at Fairview Hospital giving hand massages. Her future plans include working in a hospital lab after she graduates and going to graduate school for clinical research."

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Northwest Area

Con-Ed Topics

- Body Fluids
- Blood Bank – TRALI and TACO
- Carbapenem resistance

Northwest Area Update

Submitted by: Hannah Roder; NW Area Sr. Director

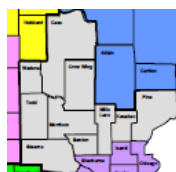
Warm weather greetings to our friends in the Northwest Area! My son has been reading Wilson Rawls’s book *Summer of the Monkeys*, and as I reflect on the past few months in the lab, my life would read more like: *Summer of the Body Fluids*. Instead of monkeys driving me out of my mind, paracentesis, thoracentesis, and CSF fluid evaluations have been the test of the season and have arrived in our lab like mosquitoes at a swamp. All these fluids (and a few requests) have prompted me to consider body fluid analysis for our next learning symposium this fall. I am also considering a blood bank update to focus on TRALI and TACO, or a microbiology topic such as Carbapenem resistance. If there is a topic you’d like to learn more about, please let me know. hroder@nchs.com

I have heard some active members are still receiving notices that their ASCLS membership has expired, if you have gotten any of these in error recently, please contact me.

Our learning symposia last spring were very educational and fun and I hope members were able to attend at least one. One member pointed out to me that our **tick-pathogens speaker, Mr. David Neitzel**, is now everywhere in the media, speaking about ticks on TV, the internet, and in newspapers. **Isn’t it just great that we heard the knowledge firsthand and live?** Our next learning opportunity is the Region V meeting in Fargo on October 13th and 14th; mark your calendars to save the date! And, if you can’t attend due to staffing shortage, consider taking a MLS/MLT student intern. Having a fresh face in the lab not only adds flavor, but often times turns into long term employment. As always, I am at your service; feel free to contact me at any time with your concerns or questions. hroder@nchs.com

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Central Area



Karen Renaud

Con-Ed Topics

- Troponin
- Fetal Lung Maturity

Central Area Update

Submitted by: Karen Renaud, Central Area Past-Sr. Director [Pres.-Elect]

Please save the date and mark your calendars! The **Central Region Fall CE event will be on Oct 27th at the CentraCare Health Plaza in St. Cloud**. Barb Connell from Sysmex will be speaking, with a second speaker still to be determined.

Eric Grahek egrahek@epocal.com has moved into the Senior Director position, and we are happy to have Sheri Meyer-Orr meyer-orr@centracare.com from CentraCare as the new Jr. Director for the Region.

We are looking forward to providing some great continuing education and networking opportunities. If there are any topics you are particularly interested in hearing about, please contact one of us, and we will see what we can do to provide the education. I have moved into a new role as President-Elect and just returned from the ASCLS National Meeting in Atlanta. What a wonderful experience! Hope to see many of you on October 27th in St. Cloud!

KRenaud@fl-hs.org

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Southwest Area



Robin Spencer

Con-Ed Topics

Emergency
Preparedness

Point-of-Care testing

“Thanks to ASCLS-MN for their support of bringing educational opportunities to our professionals in outstate areas!”

Metro Area



Southwest Area Update – News From the SW Corner of MN!

Submitted by: Robin Spencer, SW Area Sr. Director

- *“What have we learned in the past ten years in the field of emergency preparedness?”*
- *“Do your labs have the necessary policies in place and are your personnel adequately trained in these policies?”*
- *“Do you know what instruments or the variety of tests that are available for point of care testing?”*

We have learned so much in the past ten years about our response in a variety of trauma situations. But do we continue learning methods to improve our action/reaction or have we become complacent?

We wanted to take a look. As we plan the event for August 18, 2011, we realize there are a few outstanding individuals who can share a lot of information with us. I am excited about how this is falling into place. *Date – Time – Location – Speakers – Food! We are ready!*

Date: Thursday, August 18 at 5:00 pm

Location: Willmar’s Lakeland Medical Center at 502 Second Street SW
(Across the street from Rice Memorial Hospital)

For our first session we have invited Brad Hanson, the Regional Health Care Preparedness Coordinator of the Southwest MN region to speak at our August 18 ASCLS meeting. He will discuss SWEPT (the Southwest Emergency Preparedness Team) based in this region of Minnesota. He will review their contributions to the lab programs in our region, the aspects of emergency management and how to perform a hazard vulnerability analysis. Karen Samuelson, Rice Hospital Lab Operations Officer, is active in SWEPT for the laboratory response in an emergency. She will share the laboratory’s involvement in emergency events.

Our second session we will welcome Sue Iddings, a consultant for Ridgeview Medical Center, Leann Feltmann and Jennifer Field, two specialists in “Point of Care” testing. They will describe the various “Point of Care” instruments and tests that can be done. They will cover many aspects of the topic including: quality control, quality assurance, trouble-shooting, and CLIA regulations. Scott Wick, an Abbott representative, will display instruments and will be available to explain details of the instruments.

I am thankful for the association with ASCLS – MN – this evening will be a great time to share information. Good speakers, good discussion and good food. (Thanks Scott for the treats!) Thanks to ASCLS-MN for their support of bringing educational opportunities to our professionals in outstate areas!

We will also begin to plan our next event soon. Make sure to check out the ASCLS-MN website to get the information www.asclsmn.org . Even if you are not in our region- you are welcome to make the trip to Willmar for any of our ASCLS meetings!

rspencer.ascls@charter.net

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Metro Area Update

Submitted by: Charlotte Romain, Metro Area Sr. Director

I am Charlotte Romain and I am the Senior Director this year for the Metro



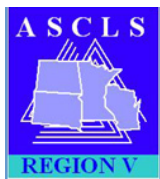


Charlotte Romain

Licensure Update



A Message from
our Region V
Director



Area. I am so excited to have Sue Iddings as my Junior Director. I just returned from the ASCLS National Meeting and am all revved up and ready for a great year of learning, networking and fun. We will be having our first planning meeting the last part of August and would love to have any ideas for continuing education topics that you may have. We plan to have 5 events again this year, including the student night. We would love to see you at one or all of the events. If you have topic ideas send them to me at charlotte@exosomedx.com.

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MN Personnel Licensure Update

Submitted by: Rick Panning, Licensure Coalition Co-Chair

Although it might appear that there was little to no licensure action in the 2011 legislative session, our lobbyist Vic Moore would beg to differ.

First of all, we all need to understand that, with a few exceptions, the entire focus of the 2011 session was to present a balanced budget for the next two years (biennium). Although we can argue whether they really accomplished this, or if it was all smoke and mirrors, almost all of the effort, time and name-calling was around this issue.

Because it was a new 2-year legislative session, we needed to identify new authors and sponsors for our bill, and because the balance of power in both houses transferred to the Republicans, it was recommended that we identify Republican authors. While that was relatively easy to do in the Senate, with Michael Jungbauer from Anoka County, it was not until the last week of the session that Tara Mack, Representative from Apple Valley, agreed to be our House sponsor.

Because of this there were no hearings of our bill in the 2011 session. Vic Moore worked tirelessly to obtain a full roster of sponsors for our bill in the House and Senate and we will now be ready for committee hearings as the legislation session begins in early 2012.

Our state-wide licensure coalition will be meeting on August 16 to plan the advocacy needed as the bill progresses through the legislature. We will need to start in the health committee of each house of the legislature and will be targeting the advocacy efforts of our members(YOU!) on those legislators sitting on those committees. Once we develop this plan we will be asking for targeted communication and advocacy from each one of you.

As an FYI, we are not the only state with active licensure efforts. Right now both Missouri and Texas have active bills, and Virginia also will be proceeding with their efforts. Other states in earlier, pre-legislative stages of the process are North Carolina, Mississippi, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Please look for communication from the coalition as we proceed through the fall in preparation for the 2012 legislative session.

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“What’s New in ASCLS? ~ ASCLS is there for you!”

Submitted by: Deb Rodahl, ASCLS Region V Director

“Life is Change, Growth is Optional” has been one of my by-lines this year and this month takes another twist on this theme. The ASCLS National Meeting was recently held in Atlanta, Georgia from July 26th – 30th. Important changes were presented to attendees and discussed through-out the week, culminating in important decisions to be made by the grass roots members of ASCLS at the House of Delegates.



Deb Rodahl

“...merger of ASCLS with the Clinical Laboratory Managers Association (CLMA).”

A **new Mission Statement** (along with updated Beliefs and Core Values) was approved by the House of Delegates reflecting a more outward vision of our organization:

ASCLS Mission

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

The most significant discussion for the week involved the proposal to pursue the Merger of ASCLS with the Clinical Laboratory Managers Association (CLMA). The last few months have been spent exploring collaboration opportunities with CLMA, which resulted in both organizations seeing the possibilities that a combined organization could represent. This was confirmed by a favorable (Yes) vote by the ASCLS House of Delegates and the CLMA Board of Directors. Many questions were asked and answered through-out the week:

Will our name change? Not initially. It makes more sense to have a combined name ASCLS / CLMA until the time is right and members are ready to determine a representative name.

Will the national meeting change? No, the ASCLS National meeting is part of the AACC meeting with an amazing exhibit hall. This meeting will continue to be the National Meeting for a combined organization. CLEC will also remain as the national conference for clinical laboratory educators. The Legislative Symposium will also remain as this has been a collaborative meeting with CLMA for many years.

Will we lose our Grass Roots (State or Constituent Society) base? No, this is seen as a great strength among other professional organizations, and will remain the foundation of the combined organization.

Is the merger a “done deal”? No, if significant issues arise as “deal-breakers”, ASCLS and CLMA will discontinue discussions.

What are the next steps? Both organizations will continue to meet to determine the details of a merger. Legal representation will participate to ensure existing contracts are handled and proper legalities are followed. Details of a formal organizational structure will be presented at the 2012 House of Delegates.



The national meeting is also a “Show-Case” for all the wonderful things our members are doing. Our Region V ASCLS members certainly represent the best of the best, as reflected in the awards received during the 2011 ASCLS National Meeting in Atlanta this summer.



Students:

- Beckman Coulter Student Travel Grant Winner – Bridget Nelson (WI)
- Student Forum Leadership Nominee – Katherine Pieschke (SD)
- Student Forum Leadership Winner – KauChee Vang (MN)

Professional Members:

- New Professional Member of the Year Nominee – Yukiko Goto (MN)
- Bio-Rad Professional Achievement Award in Molecular – Patricia Tille, Ph. D (SD)
- Leadership Academy Graduate – Jessica Peters (MN)
- Leadership Academy Graduate – Charlotte Romaine (MN)
- Nominee for ASCLS Member of the Year Award – Robert D. Jenson (SD)
- Nominee for ASCLS Member of the Year Award – JoAnne Nickles (MN)
- Nominee for ASCLS Member of the Year Award – Susan Stalewski (WI)
- Robin H. Mendelson Awardee – Carol McCoy (MN)

Emeritus Members: Recognition of 50 Years of ASCLS Membership

- Jean Linne (MN)
- Esther Damron (MN)

Activities:

- 1st Place for the Promotion of the Profession award – Minnesota
- 2nd Place for the ASCLS Publication Award – Website Version – Minnesota
- 2nd Place for Greatest Percent Increase in Membership – South Dakota
- 2nd Place for Greatest Percent Increase in Non-Student Membership – South Dakota



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

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2011 ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium – Fargo, ND

Dates: October 13-14, 2011

Location: Doublewood Inn, 3333 13th Ave S., Fargo ND 58103

Phone: (701) 235-3333

Website: www.doublewood.com/fdw_amenities.html

Fall Symposium Highlights:

Continuing Education	National Keynote Speakers
Exhibit Hall	Networking & Fun!
ASCLS Region V Council Meeting	

Save \$s... Register by September 30th!

Room reservation info:

- Reserved block of rooms will be held until Wednesday, September 8,2011; after this date rooms will be available on a first come, first serve basis
- Make your reservation early as the rooms will fill up fast



-Convention special room rate: \$78 + tax (1-4 person occupancy; includes parking)

-NOTE: To receive the special group rate, identify you are with ASCLS Region V

Make your reservation by calling the hotel direct at the number listed above

For program and registration form go to: <http://www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting/id51.html>

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**The
FINAL
WORD**

Are You A Mentor?

Submitted by: Claudine Fasching, Metro Area Past-Sr. Director

Last month I attended a retirement celebration in Chicago. The lucky retiree had lived and worked in the Twin City area for many years, but for the past 19 years has worked in Chicago. I was so excited to attend this celebration, even though I hadn't seen this person but three times in the past 19 years. I felt that not only would it be a fun time, but I would have a chance to tell and show this person what they had meant to me and my laboratory career. I initially got to know this person at my first job out of school. I thought I had learned 'it' all during school, but in reality I was a total newbie. Little did I realize that the greater part of my learning was yet before me. The person who now was celebrating their retirement was not someone who I would ever imagine becoming a mentor to me, but they became one of the most influential people in my laboratory career.

I had a great time at the party and as what often happens at these kinds of reunions, I felt that the past 19 years were but a few months and connections were as fresh as they ever had been. As I drove home from Chicago I reflected on what exactly it was about this person that had made such a difference to me. When I first think of mentors, I think of a formal arrangement between an experienced person and one who is not so experienced. I had no such arrangement with this person. This person through their work ethic, humor, enthusiasm, kindness, compassion, intelligence, and most of all, patience, gave me a great gift; THEIR EXAMPLE. It was no work on their part. Teachers pass on knowledge, mentors pass on wisdom. From this first job and my mentors, I learned to love my profession and today I can tell you I still love my profession.

Now as I am thinking about this person's influence on me, I start to think about what example I set. How can I be better at leading by example? Why is mentorship important? The answers to these questions may be different for each one of us, but here are a few reasons why I think mentors in all their many forms are crucial:

- 1) Engagement – when people feel engaged in their work there is a personal commitment which takes the work to a new level. Mentors can lead people to engagement.
- 2) Encouragement – when people are encouraged to take personal responsibility and to step out of their 'comfort' zone great things can happen. Mentors can spread encouragement all around the work place.
- 3) Enthusiasm – enthusiastic people are infectious (in a good way) and happy. When mentors share enthusiasm a transformation can take place.
- 4) Example – we all rely on what we see around us for cues regarding expected behaviors in the work place. Mentors are positive role models which definitely change the working environment for the better.

We can ALL be mentors – to newbies and oldbies alike!

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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

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