



## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

**Galina Dronova, MS, MLS(ASCP)**  
ASCLS-MN President  
Clinical Laboratory Development  
Specialist, M Health Fairview

As the incoming president of ASCLS-MN, it is with great enthusiasm that myself and my executive assistant, Tina (pictured with me above), extend our warm welcome to each and every one of you as a valued member of our diverse and dedicated laboratory community.

**First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to our outgoing President, Charlotte Romain, and the entire board for their remarkable commitment to our constituent society over the past year. It is through their dedication that ASCLS-MN has increased its visibility with in-person events as we continue to crawl out of the post pandemic isolation. These events include PACE approved sessions in Duluth and Rochester, as well as student night and happy hour gatherings.**

As we embark on the new year, I hope to continue building off the momentum our board has created for hosting diverse events. Giving back to our community is a two-part effort: planning the event and making sure those of us with often stringent schedules know about it far enough in advance to attend. After all, the "if you build it, they will come" mentality still needs a push from promotional efforts. The marketing component to the puzzle is what I hope to bring to the board this year by expanding our social media, advertising, and word of mouth presence with your help.

I invite each of you to actively participate in the various initiatives and opportunities that ASCLS-Minnesota offers. These efforts can be small, such as following the [American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science - Minnesota](#) Facebook page and helping reshare posts about our upcoming events.

## Newsletter Highlights

- President's Message-1
- CLC Highlights-2
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- Legislative Updates - 6
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## Up-coming Events:

- 8/27 Cider Social
- 9/28-9/29 Region V Symposium
- 10/22 ASCLS Board Meeting
- 10/23-10/24 Leg Symposium
- 1/14 Mid-Year House of Delegates
- 1/19 - 1/20 ELMC2

To better serve our patients, my community of medical laboratory professionals share knowledge, ideas, and resources.

## #Lab4Life

**#IamASCLS**  
and I renewed  
my membership  
early.



If you have more availability and would like to get involved in event planning, resume building opportunities, or have a knowledge of marketing/promotions let's connect via email: [drona002@umn.edu](mailto:drona002@umn.edu). Your engagement and ideas are invaluable in shaping the future of our organization.

If you are interested in learning more about my professional interests, you can find me on [LinkedIn](#). If you want to learn more about me personally, such as my journey to the U.S. from Belarus or my rock-climbing adventures, I hope to meet you in person at one of our upcoming events.



To better serve you in the next year, please complete this short [survey of interest](#). Thank you for your dedication and passion for our profession. With your involvement, I am confident that ASCLS-Minnesota will achieve new heights of success.

## #Labucate

To care for my patients, I continually work to advance my medical laboratory skills and scientific knowledge.

#IamASCLS and I renewed my membership early.



[ascls.org/renew](https://ascls.org/renew)



## CLINICAL LABORATORY COLLABORATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

### Charlotte Romain, MS, MLS(ASCP)cm

The annual Clinical Laboratory Collaborative (CLC) Meeting is a highlight for Minnesota laboratorians. In-person meetings have resumed since the pause due to COVID in 2020 and 2021. There was no meeting at all in 2020, while 2021 brought an all-virtual meeting and 2022 was a hybrid event. This year the meeting was back to an all in-person format in a new venue. The 2023 CLC was held for the first time in Mankato at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center. Two full days of educational programs, networking and industry engagement were sponsored by ASCLS, ASCP/CLMA, MNABB, AGT, and AMT. Keynote speakers Dr Alan Wu and Elizabeth Power were an energizing addition to the more than 30 educational sessions offered.



Elizabeth Powers signing books after her keynote

Special Thanks to Tori Nemitz for providing photos from the CLC!



The vendor hall was full again this year. Only a few vendors were able to participate in the virtual meeting in 2021 and some were still unable to travel in the spring of 2022, so everyone was excited to be together again. The number of industry partners was back up to pre-COVID numbers this year and they were eager to talk with clients and old friends about what is new and exciting in the field.



Overall meeting registration numbers were approaching our pre-COVID numbers as well, with 204 registrations.

The annual silent auction to raise money for student scholarships was also a great success this year. We raised **\$1,498** for the Elizabeth Panning Scholarship Fund.



Mark your calendars! Next year's CLC will be April 4th and 5th at the Double Tree Inn and Suites in Bloomington. The committee will be gearing up to start planning starting in September.

**Are you looking for a way to connect with fellow laboratorians? Do you like to plan parties, organize meetings, talk to industry partners, raise money for student scholarships? You are just the person we are looking for! Many hands make light work, and it takes an army of volunteers to put on a meeting of this magnitude. We are looking for new faces with new ideas! If you are interested in volunteering, contact Charlotte Romain at [marsh397@gmail.com](mailto:marsh397@gmail.com). We have a spot for you!**



Next year's CLC will be April 4th and 5th at the Double Tree Inn and Suites in Bloomington.

## 2023 ASCLS-MN Election Results

President-Elect: open

Secretary: Austin Korczak

Treasurer: Tami Amplaugh

Northwest Junior Director: open

Northeast/Central Junior Director: Kelsi Steffen

Metro Junior Director: Austin Korczak

Southwest Junior Director: open

Southeast Junior Director: open

2023-2024 Delegates:

- Charlotte Romain
- Galina Dronova
- Alex Shaw (Ascending Professional)
- Gabbie Burk (Developing Professional)
- Crystal Paul
- Kathy Hansen
- Deb Rodahl
- Cindy Johnson - alternate
- Rick Panning - alternate



### ASCLS Minnesota Awards:

Keys to the Future

Hana Bergling

Rachel Siddall

Newsletter: Charlotte Romain

Website: Jenna Amundson

Member of the Year: Galina Dronova

## ASCLS-MN Goes to the JAM

**Crysal Paul, MLS(ASCP)**

JAM? What is JAM? The Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) is put together in partnership with ASCLS, AGT (Association of Genetic Technologists) and SAFMLS (Society of American Federal Medical Laboratory Scientists). This year, the meeting was held in Providence, Rhode Island and had so many opportunities for networking and socializing that it was hard to choose which activity to participate in! Thankfully, the hybrid meeting allows attendees to choose the talk they'd like to attend in person and then go watch the others virtually at a later time. With this platform, I was able to go in-person to learn how architects design laboratories that are efficient for not just the equipment but also the staff working in the lab, but I also needed a Chemistry PACE credit, so I watched the Heavy Metals talk at a later time at home. Being able to learn from industry leaders and field experts in person was a highlight of the trip for me!

Another highlight was attending the ASCLS National Awards Ceremony where the ASCLS-Minnesota constituent society was nominated and won multiple awards (see listing below). After the awards ceremony was a wonderful time to connect with the other constituent societies to learn more about what their state societies are doing to actively engage membership. These conversations allow us to network outside of our state to attain insight and feedback on how we can grow. This type of networking not only energized me at work, but also in my professional connections. I made so many new friends that I can call upon for industry questions!



As an elected delegate for Minnesota, it was my privilege and duty to attend the ASCLS Coffee with the Candidates where I learned who the nominees for the national positions were. These volunteer candidates presented about how they would address the issues facing our society and membership. Delegates vote on which nominee should be elected and serve on the national board of directors or the Nominations or Judicial committees. Delegates also attend the House of Delegates (HOD) where business items are discussed before the



Constituents from Minnesota along with the rest of Region V traveled to Providence, Rhode Island to experience ASCLS' Joint Annual Meeting that is held with AGT and SAFMLS.



Galina receiving one of many awards on behalf of ASCLS Minnesota



**Dr. Pat Tille being sworn-in as ASCLS President-Elect**



**Ali Nussbaum, Josh Pulido, and Nick Moore being sworn-in as ASCLS Directors.**



**ASCLS Past-President, Hassan Aziz with Galina and Crystal after the House of Delegates.**



**Front: Jean Bauer, Deb Rodahl, Cindy Johnson  
Back: Crystal Paul, Ali Nussbaum, Galina Dranova**

board of directors (BOD) and voted on. There can be a variety of society business items, but a few are issues or position papers that represent ASCLS. For instance, at the 2023 HOD one of the items for the house of delegates to vote on was approving an updated position paper on Licensure of Medical Laboratory Professionals.

During the HOD, the newly elected candidates are installed as officers of the board. Two of our Region V constituent society members were elected to the board this year. Ali Nussbaum was elected to the National Board of Directors. It will be her duty to share the board's opinions, know and understand ASCLS' involvement and oversee different national programs. Another Region V constituent was elected to the position of President-Elect. Dr. Pat Tille from South Dakota will represent all of ASCLS in her position as she moves from President-Elect to President and then Past President.

Of course, I can't highlight JAM without talking about our involvement in legislation. The political action committee (PAC) actively seeks contributions each year that allows ASCLS to provide financial and educational support. Each year attendees can donate different amounts and be given a pin to showcase their financial support of PAC. There is a long-standing competition to see which Region can raise the most funds for PAC during the JAM. While we didn't win the trophy this year, we did raise \$1,412 for PAC fundraising which put us in 2nd place! Interested in learning more about PAC? Please check out the ASCLS website <https://ascls.org/pac/> or talk to Charlotte or Galina for more information.

### **National Awards Received at the JAM:**

- Political Action Committee Fundraising Constituent Society Most Contributed per Member: 3rd place with \$8.31 per member
- Political Action Committee Fundraising Constituent Society Most Contributed: 2nd place with \$1,412 total
- Constituent Society Website: 2nd place awarded to Jenna Amundson, Webmaster
- Constituent Society Publication for e-LABorate Newsletter: 3rd place awarded to Charlotte Romain, Editor

## Government Affairs Updates

**Donna Showers, MLS(ASCP), MS, FACHE**

The following article is a summary of 3 areas impacting our profession that the ASCLS Government Affairs Committee (GAC) is currently involved in advocacy work on:

- Workforce Shortages
- The Clinical Lab Fee Schedule reimbursement rates
- Oversight of Laboratory Developed Tests (LDT)

### Workforce Shortages

Chances are that most of you reading this article have been impacted by staffing issues in your lab. You may be picking up extra shifts to cover the void or are seeing contracted personnel (“Travelers”) in your lab. If you work outside of a hospital lab, you might be forced to implement shortened hours of operation or even outsource your lab work to a reference lab. This issue has reached a crisis level with no relief in sight as older medical laboratory professionals are retiring without an adequate supply of new graduates to fill open positions. The culprits of labor shortages are a combination of a lack of awareness of our profession, less than ideal workplace environments in some instances which lead to people resigning, a lack of scholarships for MLS students, and a lack of hospitals that offer internships or clinical training programs.

**GAC members are reaching out to U.S. legislators to establish a program of scholarships and loan repayment in exchange for a period of obligated service in areas where there is a health professional shortage, and to establish a federal grant program to assist allied health schools in recruiting and retaining MLS students.**

### Clinical Lab Fee Schedule (CLFS)

The Protecting Access to Medicare Acts of 2014 (PAMA) reformed the Medicare CLFS to a single national fee schedule based on private market data. Data collection was a flawed operation in that it oversampled large reference labs and under-sampled hospital and Physician Office Labs. This process led to nearly \$4 billion in reimbursement cuts. The process of sampling and calculating new rates (up to 15% cuts projected) was delayed during the pandemic but is due to resume in 2024. The Saving Access to Laboratory Services Act (SALSA – H.R. 8188/S. 4449) is a permanent solution that would set the CLFS on a sustainable path forward. The bill would set forth that accurate private market rates are collected as well as providing a much-needed reduction in the reporting burden for labs. The GAC is again asking ASCLS members to write to their US legislators and urge them to support this bill.



## #Labvocate

I fight for high standards and better public policies that will create positive patient outcomes for all.

#IamASCLS and I renewed my membership early.



[ascls.org/renew](https://ascls.org/renew)



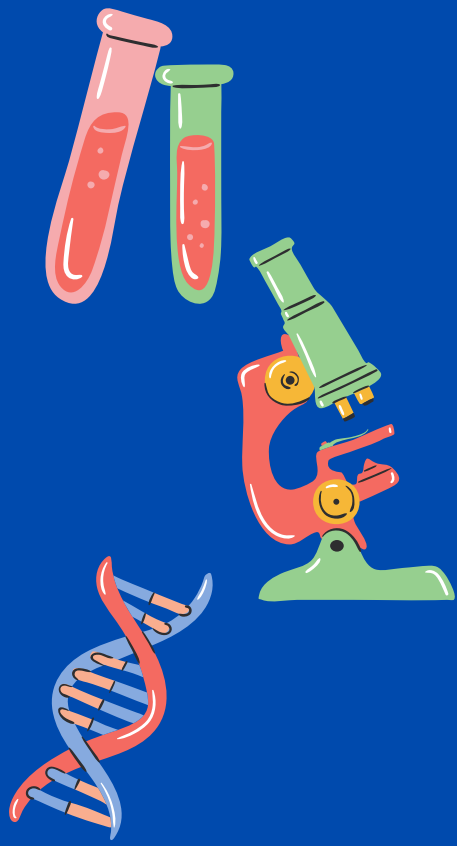
**ASCLS Legislative Symposium**

October 27-28

For more information:

[Laboratory Legislative Symposium -](#)

[ASCLS](#)

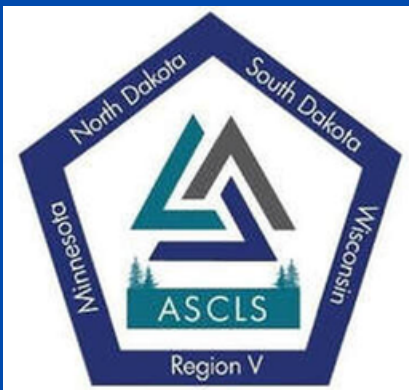


### Laboratory Developed Tests (LDT)

The much-publicized case involving Elizabeth Holmes and her now-disgraced start-up lab testing operation, Theranos, has raised awareness for the need for oversight reform of LDT's.

US House lawmakers have re-introduced a bill that would give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) explicit authority to regulate certain laboratory-developed tests (LDT). The agency has long sought to regulate such tests that are currently overseen by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). The Verifying Accurate, Leading-edge IVCT Development (VALID) Act has been introduced multiple times in congress without success but is still being considered. While FDA Commissioner Robert Califf has said he would consider rulemaking to ensure the agency has authority to regulate LDTs, he has also said he would prefer if Congress explicitly gave the agency authority to do so. Opponents argue that the bill would put undue burdens on academic medical centers. Proponents argue that modernization of the regulation of all LDTs and IVDs under a single, diagnostic-specific regulatory framework under the Food and Drug Administration is needed to foster innovation, embrace scientific advances, and ensure consistency in development, accuracy and reliability of all tests, for the advancement of patient care and public health.

For those who might be more interested in the above topics and want to see first-hand what it is like to lobby for your profession, check out the ASCLS Legislative Symposium at [Laboratory Legislative Symposium - ASCLS](#).



## REGION 5

- [Minnesota](#)
- [North Dakota](#)
- [South Dakota](#)
- [Wisconsin](#)



[http://www.regionvascls.online/store/c3/Region\\_V\\_Attendee\\_Registration\\_Options.html](http://www.regionvascls.online/store/c3/Region_V_Attendee_Registration_Options.html)



# ASCLS-MN

*Presents:*

## #12 CIDER SOCIAL

**DATE/TIME: AUGUST 27TH, 2023, 5:00 P.M.**

**LOCATION: #12 CIDER**

**614 N 5TH STREET, MINNEAPOLIS, MN, 55405**

- Socialize and network with your peers from all fields of Clinical Laboratory Science.
- This is a **FREE** informal social event
- Invite your friends and family, all are welcome
- #12 Cider is not hosting this event, we will be with other guests at the brewery.
- Come grab a drink and celebrate the work you do.
- Register by scanning QR code or visiting here: [tinyurl.com/12Cider2023](https://tinyurl.com/12Cider2023)





# ASCLS-MN BOARD MEMBERS 2023-2024

President: Galina Dronova

President-Elect: open

Past-President: Charlotte Romain MS, MLS(ASCP)

Secretary: Austin Korczak

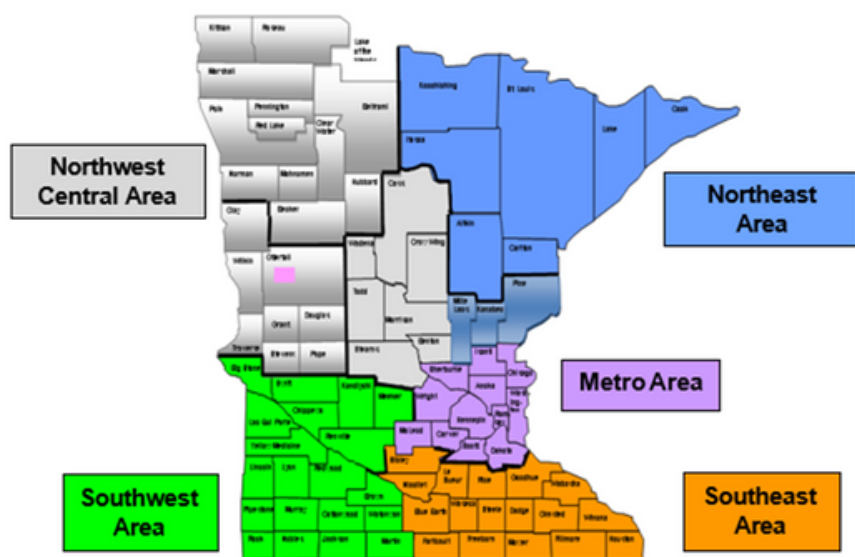
Treasurer: Tami Alpaugh

Ascending Professional Forum Chair: Justin Johnson

Developing Professional Forum Chair: Gabrielle Burk / Anna Youngs

Area Directors:

- Northeast - Mary Rauvola / Kelsi Steffen
- Northwest/Central - Open / Open
- Metro – Tori Contreras / Austin Korczak
- Southeast - Open / Open
- Southwest - Open / Open



## A Word from the Editor:

Deb Rodahl (drodahl@outlook.com)

If you have any comments, suggestions, or would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, please feel free to reach out!

## For More Information Visit:

<https://www.asclsmn.org>

<http://www.regionvascls.online>

[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)

[facebook.com/ascls.mn](https://facebook.com/ascls.mn)

## ASCLS MINNESOTA MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE - MINNESOTA (ASCLS-MN) IS TO PROMOTE THE PROFESSION OF CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE IN MINNESOTA AND PROVIDE BENEFICIAL SERVICES TO THOSE WHO PRACTICE IT.

THE SOCIETY IS COMMITTED TO:

PROMOTING HIGH STANDARDS IN CLINICAL LABORATORY PRACTICE, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH.

ELEVATING THE PROFESSIONAL STATUS OF THOSE PRACTICING CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE THROUGH PUBLIC ADVOCACY.

PROMOTING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION AND NETWORKING BETWEEN CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS, PHYSICIANS, AND ALL OTHERS WHO ARE EMPLOYED IN THE INTEREST OF INDIVIDUAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

PROVIDING AND SUPPORTING CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRACTITIONERS AT ALL LEVELS.

## ASCLS MINNESOTA VISION STATEMENT

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE - MINNESOTA (ASCLS-MN), THE STATE'S CONSTITUENT SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE (ASCLS), AS THE PREMIERE ORGANIZATION FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PRACTITIONERS.