



# e – LABorate

MN Newsletter

January 2021



## Message from Your President

~ Wendy Parpart, ASCLS-MN President



### IN THIS ISSUE

Pg. 1 President’s Message

Pg. 2 Upcoming Events

Pg. 3 Region V Updates

Area Updates

New Pins

Pg. 4 Scholarships

Leadership Academy

Membership Development

Pg. 5 Check It Out!

Hello! My name is Wendy Parpart and I am your current ASCLS-MN President for 2020-2021. I would first like to thank everyone for all the hard work put in during this pandemic year. Everything you do is so very important!

My laboratory career began when I completed my Associates Degree in Minnesota. I spent several years working in a clinical, research, and a hospital setting. I soon realized a leadership role was something I strived for. At this point I pursued my MLS degree with the help of some very special role models in my life.

I began my relationship with ASCLS several years ago. I have truly enjoyed my volunteer opportunities which included Jr. and SR. Metro Area Directors, CLC committee member and chair, and a Leadership Academy graduate.

ASCLS has given me a chance to enhance members in their professional careers, mentor new members, develop strong relationships and build some especially important network opportunities.

This year has been incredibly challenging for holding our in-person educational opportunities. Our Region V event in October was unfortunately cancelled; I will be keeping my fingers crossed for 2021. We did move forward with some virtual events for our state. Our first event was a scientific assembly in November which was very successful. Our CLC this year will be completely virtual on April 12-13. Please lookout for information on this. We are planning some fun social events and interesting education opportunities at this event.

Thank you for allowing me to share a little bit about myself and if you have any questions for me or some ideas on content you would like to see in our newsletter, please feel free to reach out to me at [wendymagee70@gmail.com](mailto:wendymagee70@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

- **Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC)**

February 25-27, 2021 Held virtually.

Registration is currently open.

CLEC is the most impactful annual gathering for faculty, administrators, directors, advisers, and all those in medical laboratory education. Content experts will present a wide range of timely topics, providing you with the knowledge and skills to navigate the evolving landscape for the clinical laboratory education community.

- **Legislative Symposium**

March 15-16, 2021 at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town in Alexandria, VA or to be held virtually

*\*Date subject to change to Fall 2021. Updates to come.*

Through this ASCLS tradition that originated in 1989, members of CLMA, ASCP, AGT, AMT, NSH, and PAMET-USA meet with their representatives and senators on Capitol Hill as a unified front on behalf of our profession. Each year these leading organizations urge their members and leaders to come to Washington to provide a visible and informed voice, and make our concerns known inside Congress. Topics that were proposed this year during Legislative days included The Laboratory workforce bill, PAMA (Protecting Access to Medicare Act, and Laboratory developed testing.

- **Clinical Laboratory Collaborative (CLC)**

April 12-13, 2021 Held virtually

Registration includes attendance to the live event and access to all the presentations for 30 days afterwards. The event includes 2 keynote speakers and 32 presentations.

- **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lab Week (Virtual) Run**

April 18-24, 2021

Race packets go on sale *January 1* with early bird pricing through *February 15*.

The race can be completed anytime during lab week. Participants can walk, run, or bike anywhere (even on a treadmill) to complete the 5K distance (3.1 miles). All proceeds go to grants and scholarships that help medical laboratory professionals attend ASCLS meetings, lobby representatives for the profession, and become future leaders in the field. <https://labweekrun.com/>

- **Joint Annual Meeting**

June 27 – July 1, 2021 at the Omni Louisville Hotel in Louisville, KY

- **Region V Symposium**

October 7-8, 2021 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sioux Falls, SD

**\*Event dates subject to change. Events may update to be held virtually.**



ashworth  
awards

## Pins!



## Region V Update

~Jean Bauer, ASCLS Region V Director

This year Region V has seen the same challenges as the other regions in ASCLS. All of the state meetings were cancelled as well as the Region V Symposium. While the meetings may have gone by the wayside, Region V has been productive. New logos for each state and the region were developed and approved by the Region V Council. Two of the states (Minnesota and Wisconsin), along with the region, also decided to have pins made, which will be available for purchase through the state and region.

At the Joint Annual Meeting in June, Region V retained the trophy for the region with the highest amount of Political Action Committee (PAC) contributions. The PAC raises funds to support those legislators who support the legislation that will have a positive impact on laboratories.

As we head into 2021, our states in Region V are evaluating whether or not to hold in person state meetings. Wisconsin has made the decision to do a 4-day virtual meeting (April 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> with 6 education sessions in the evenings), while the others are in discussion. Our Region V Symposium is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in Sioux Falls, SD. At this time we are planning for an in-person meeting, but keeping the option open for a virtual and/or hybrid as well.

Wishing you all well. Cheers for a better and brighter 2021!

## Metro Area Update: Connect with Us

~Galina Dronova, Metro Area Senior Director of Scientific Assembly

Perhaps the last thought in our minds this year is obtaining CE credits for certification. Yet here we are having just completed our first virtual Scientific Assembly! Three fantastic speakers spent a Thursday evening on Oct 29<sup>th</sup> educating their audience on transfusion reaction case studies and EVALI (E-cigarette and vaping associated lung injury).

Planning a virtual event is uncharted territory for the Minnesota ASCLS chapter. We prepared the participants through registration emails and save the date flyers. We prepared the speakers by meeting them for a virtual sound check before the event. We promoted through our website and social media. And all the effort was successfully packaged together and delivered with a bow on top, like an early holiday present.

Two main outcomes to reflect on after hosting a virtual event are: How does a virtual event hold up in participation and interest compared to an in-person event? 100% of participants stated that the Zoom format was easy to follow and that they would like to see future virtual events. We are now in the process of applying the data and the lessons learned for future event creation.

The second, and more important outcome is to provide a sense of normalcy for the laboratory professionals. This year has been incredibly isolating and anxiety filled. Having a night where we can take off our masks and come together to learn is therapeutic and arguably necessary. We are never stranded in this battlefield as long as we have each other's empathy and compassion. I can be the first to tell you that all the planning effort is worth it. Please know that this is just the beginning!

Stay tuned. Stay strong.

## Scholarships

~ Janice M. Conway-Klaassen, Scholarship Coordinator

The Medical Laboratory Sciences Program at the University of Minnesota received a wonderful new grant from the Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) for Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students. The primary purpose is to level the access field for students who often must work a lot to attend school and could use some help.

We received the highest amount of funding possible with \$650,000 per year for five years for a total of \$3,250,000. That means we will be able to fund up to 25 students for full tuition and fees each year and also pay for some living expenses. This will allow them to focus on their studies and really support their success in the program.

There are multiple factors providing eligibility for this scholarship including financial need, first-generation college student, ethnic or cultural diversity, disadvantaged high school background, or coming from a medically underserved community. This HRSA grant allows us to reserve our other program scholarships for students in other categories so that we may be able to provide some funding support to all of our students.



## Leadership Academy



ASCLS Region V has a wonderful opportunity that is available to any ASCLS member from Region V. The Leadership Academy provides guidance, education, and resources at a regional level to prepare ASCLS members for leadership roles in ASCLS and within the profession.

There is no charge to participate in the Region V Leadership Academy program for members from Region V, however travel and meeting registration costs should be considered when applying. The host state societies do assist their participants with expenses.

The Academy is a 12-month program running from October to October and covering topics including:

- \* History of ASCLS
- \* Leadership and communication styles
- \* Goals and strategic planning
- \* Organization skills and time management
- \* Conflict management
- \* Conducting successful meetings
- \* Professional advocacy
- \* Recruitment strategies

P.A.C.E™ continuing education credits will be awarded for each session completed. The Leadership Academy is an opportunity to pursue leadership, professionalism, management, and self-knowledge. For more information visit

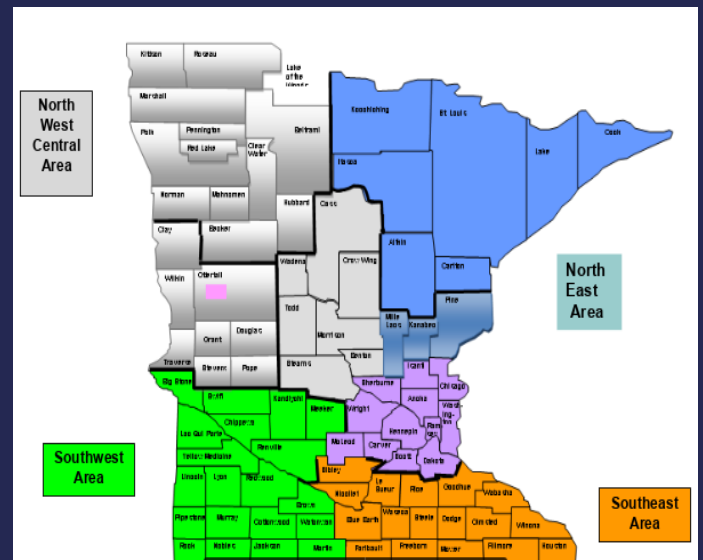
<https://www.asclsmn.org/region-v-leadership-academy>

*Application deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>*

## Membership Development

**OPEN POSITIONS!**

We are currently looking for Area Directors for the Southwest Area and Northeast Areas.



## ASCLS Lifetime Achievement Award: Rick Panning



- ~ Jean Bauer, ASCLS Region V Director
- ~ Kathy Hansen, ASCLS Past President
- ~ Sue Iddings, ASCLS-MN Past President

Congratulations to Rick Panning who was nominated for the ASCLS Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020. Rick has been valuable to ASCLS as well as the healthcare system as a whole. Rick has been active in ASCLS and ASCLS-MN since joining in the 1970s and has served outstandingly as Region V Director and ASCLS President. He has also served in leadership positions in many of the health systems in the Twin Cities, including his current position as Senior Administrative Director of Laboratory Services at Health Partners, and previous positions with Fairview Health Services, Allina Health System, and as CEO of the American Red Cross North Central Blood Services.

One of Rick's passions has been advocacy in the legislative and regulatory issues. He was vice chair or chair of the ASCLS Government Affairs Committee for 8 years and is now a permanent advisor to the GAC.

Rick is recognized for his great expertise, especially in the areas of government affairs, personnel licensure, strategic planning, process improvement, test utilization, healthcare reform, and acting as liaison to other organizations.

### Check it Out: Off the Bench Podcast

Check out our Lab Podcast! Scientific and not-so-scientific ideas in laboratory. From COVID Lab Conspiracy Theories to Legislative Insights for the Lab, lets share ideas and talk nerdy! New episodes drop the last Friday of each month.

Available on Audible, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Stitcher.

<https://www.asclsmn.org/>

For More Information Visit:

<http://www.regionvascls.online/>

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

### A Word from the Editor

~ Dani Ashcroft, NW/Central Area Director

Welcome to the new eLABorate newsletter. If you have any comments, suggestions, or would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, please email me at [danielle.ashcroft@centracare.com](mailto:danielle.ashcroft@centracare.com)