



ASCLS is excited to introduce the ASCLS Voices Under 40, a monthly recognition of one of our many, talented and committed young professionals under 40 years old. The ASCLS Voices Spotlight has been developed to honor ASCLS members who have shown exceptional commitment to ASCLS, the laboratory profession, and their community at large at a younger age in their professional career. Each month we spotlight one of the Shining Voices who were selected from many nominations across the country.

Please meet Michelle Campbell, MS, MLS (ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, MB (ASCP) from Rochester, MN.

Michelle currently works as Development Technologist in the Clinical Immunoassay and Clinical Mass Spectrometry Laboratories at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. She describes her role to those outside of the laboratory world as “invent lab tests. I work closely with our laboratory directors and do both the literature review and wet lab work to bring new tests to our clinical laboratories. This involves research into analytes and instrumentation, direct contact with vendors, verification and validation testing, and working hand-in-hand with clinical laboratories to facilitate go-lives. Since the process of developing laboratory assays requires an in-depth knowledge of test methodology and (if applicable) instrumentation, I also serve as a resource for troubleshooting assays once they are “live” in their respective laboratories. I find this job incredibly intellectually fulfilling, as it requires me to apply my fundamental laboratory science knowledge to create tests from scratch. Michelle also serves as an Adjunct Instructor of Biostatistics for Laboratory Professionals at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Michelle explains that her motivation for being actively involved in ASCLS is twofold. “First, I believe it is my duty as a laboratory scientist to contribute to the profession’s success. As a grassroots organization, ASCLS is truly the best vehicle to do this. ASCLS promotes the profession through educational events, presence at career fairs, classroom presentations, outreach to those in government (e.g. Legislative Symposium), and scholarships. Personally, I have become especially involved in ASCLS as Scholarship Chair for ASCLS-IL. By promoting the scholarships we have available and facilitating the administration of these scholarships, I believe I am actively supporting the next generation of laboratory professionals and contributing to the profession. The second part of my motivation to be actively involved in ASCLS is for the professional connections. Through the national committees I serve on, I have connected with individuals from all corners of the country. This has been an invaluable source of not only professional insight

into how other laboratories provide the highest quality laboratory results to patients, but has also blossomed into wonderful personal friendships. Overall, being actively involved in ASCLS has been an incredibly rewarding experience that I plan to continue for the remainder of my career and beyond."

Michelle's favorite personal accomplishment within ASCLS was receiving both the Student of the Year and Key to the Future awards at the ASCLS-IL 2014 annual meeting, adding that "it felt both rewarding and welcoming to be recognized by the society for working hard to become involved in ASCLS at the state level and also to be labeled as someone who would be a valuable member of ASCLS in the future. Years later, both of these awards have continued to fuel my passion to be an active member in ASCLS both at the state and national levels."

Outside of ASCLS, Michelle's proudest achievement is earning her graduate degree. Michelle added: "From August 2016 to May 2018, I worked full-time as a Medical Laboratory Scientist while also being a full-time graduate student in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Master's in Clinical Laboratory Science-Molecular Diagnostic Science Program. This was incredibly challenging in many ways; especially the time and financial commitment it required. ASCLS facilitated my achievement of this goal through scholarships administered by the Education and Research Fund. In May 2018, I graduated from this program and have since applied my M.S. degree to become a Development Technologist at Mayo Clinic."