



## THE NEW PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE E-NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 JUNE 2014

### 2014 ASCLS 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting: What to attend? *by Jonathan R. Gusilatar MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>*



The city of Chicago is hosting the 82<sup>nd</sup> ASCLS Annual Meeting this year! Sounds like a great summer retreat! Mixing work and play doesn't seem to be complicated after all. The ASCLS meeting provides events that would make your experience a memorable one. The ASCLS Annual Meeting also features the largest clinical laboratory exhibition in the world with more than 480 companies and over 1700 booths:

#### Clinical Lab Expo (McCormick Place):

Tuesday and Wednesday (9:30-5:00)

Thursday (9:30-2:00)

All individuals with full registration to the ASCLS Annual Meeting can attend regular AACC sessions at no charge.

[Here are some suggested events you wouldn't want to miss!](#)

#### Tuesday

1:00-2:30 PM: NPC Orientation & Welcome

7:00-8:30 PM: First Timer's & Students' Reception and Silent Auction

9:00 PM-'till you drop: Students & New Professionals Informal Bowling Event (Lucky Strike, North Side)

#### Wednesday

9:00-10:00 AM: **Opening Keynote:** The Boston Marathon Disaster: Our Laboratory's Response

10:30-11:45 AM: **Student Forum Orientation**

7:00-10:00 PM: **ASCLS President's Reception and Education & Research Fund Silent Auction**

#### Thursday

11:00-12:00 PM: **New Professionals Committee**

12:00-01:00 PM: **Student Forum Scientific Forum Scientific Session**

**"How to get Involved"**

5:30-6:30 PM: **Member Awards Ceremony**

#### Friday

8:00-9:00 AM: **Student Forum Elections**

4:00-5:00 PM: **Closing Keynote:** What do most influential people do differently: How do you get people to do what you want them to do.

#### Saturday

8:00-11:00 AM: **House of Delegates**

#### Calendar of Events

**Annual Meeting  
July 29-August 2, 2014  
Chicago, IL**

#### In this issue:

What to attend at the Annual Meeting?	1-2
Call for Nominees	2
Membership	3-4
Licensure vs. Certification	5
DCLS	6
NPC Message	7

Don't miss out on other events and networking: Download the ASCLS Annual Meeting Mobile App and access the event schedule on your phone. Thank you to our loyal sponsors. Hope to see you in Chicago!



**20% Off for new Professional I Members**  
**Offer valid only for ASCLS 2014 Annual Meeting attendees**

- Save 20% on a full year of ASCLS Professional I member benefits, including:
- The quarterly *Clinical Laboratory Science* journal and the *ASCLS Today* newsletter
  - Continuing education credits through online, mail-in, and in-person programs
  - Discounted rates for the ASCLS Annual Meeting and Clinical Lab Expo
  - A voice in government affairs
  - And much, much more

Submit this coupon with your ASCLS membership application and ASCLS 2014 Annual Meeting registration form.  
*Offer valid only for new Professional I members registered for the full ASCLS 2014 Annual Meeting. This coupon may not be used in conjunction with any other membership coupon. Not valid for membership renewals. This coupon expires 8/3/2014.*

**Calling all Nominees!** *by Jasmin Davis MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>*

The 2014 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL is just around the corner! There is still time to nominate officers for Vice-Chair and Secretary for the New Professionals and New Members Forum (NPNMF). Those applicants who complete their applications by July 1<sup>st</sup> will receive early publications on the ASCLS Facebook page and in a special edition of the NPC E-newsletter. Elections will be held on Thursday July 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00am. The nomination form is available at [www.ascls.org/NPC](http://www.ascls.org/NPC). The NPNMF will serve to engage and inform individuals new to the profession and ASCLS about the various opportunities that membership affords. Forum driven activities will support the needs and interests of Forum members.

A candidate **must** have been an ASCLS member for at least (4) months prior to the election at the Annual Meeting; be a new clinical laboratory science professional with less than 5 years of experience in the practice or a member of ASCLS for less than 5 years. Experience in a leadership position in a laboratory related program, club, or at the state/regional/national level is preferred, but not required.

**VICE-CHAIR'S RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Assist the Chair in any activities and functions related to the Forum.
2. Work with the Chair, Secretary, Advisor, and other members to complete the charges for the year.
3. Stand in for the Chair if he/she is unable to complete his/her duties.

**SECRETARY'S RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Assist the Chair in scheduling meetings and conference calls throughout the year.
2. Take the meeting minutes for all meetings and conference calls throughout the year.
3. Maintain a current contact list of all Regional and State Communications Coordinators.
4. Work with the Chair, Vice-Chair, Advisor, and other members to complete the charges for the year.

We wish you well and look forward to seeing all of your faces at the meeting!!

## Membership *by Tiffany Mylius MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>*

*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.*

Take this statement in and simmer on the words that were chosen. Then mull over the most popular questions every existing ASCLS member has been asked, "So explain to me what benefits there are to being a member?", "Why should I become a member of ASCLS?"

Now turn the tables, WHY SHOULDN'T YOU BECOME A MEMBER!

Right now you may be watching your budget more closely than in years past. Maybe you're cutting any expenses you can live without. Some of you may be hesitating before renewing your ASCLS membership or signing up for the first time as a member. The truth is that in today's economy with the laboratory industry facing unprecedented changes, your involvement with professional association's matters more than ever.

Membership matters more than most people think. Whether it's the products and services we provide, the causes we support or the laboratories we serve, everything we are about is because of our members. It is about enabling laboratory professionals to function at their highest level of competence that will contribute to cost effective health care.

Think about how other alumni associations, fraternities, societies or groups reel you in:

- The acceptance of responsibility for any effort that moves the group forward.
- The desire to strive for, and ultimately achieve, excellence in everything you do.
- The commitment to train for leadership.
- The resolution to give lifelong financial support and commitment to the maintenance and development of the programs and purposes.
- To help our community grow and provide services with our members best interests at heart.

The last time I checked membership is a defining characteristic of most associations. Making a commitment makes a powerful statement in a low commitment laboratory culture.

### What an ASCLS membership can offer you. (Provided by [ASCLS.org](http://ASCLS.org))

Continuing education:

Enhance your professional knowledge through Professional Acknowledgment for Continuing Education. These programs, webcasts, CD's and online course offerings provide continuing education credits through hundreds of quality programs on topics of critical interest. You can earn P.A.C.E.® credits for re-certification or to fulfill re-licensure requirements.

ASCLS also offers FOCUS, a convenient, mail-in continuing education program published in our journal, Clinical Laboratory Science. When you join or renew you may select an ASCLS Certification Maintenance Membership to get P.A.C.E.® approved online continuing education.

Recognizing the importance of certification, ASCLS endorses the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) in its accreditation efforts of schools which offer education in clinical laboratory science.

ASCLS Annual Meeting and Exposition:

Described as the premier continuing education event in clinical laboratory science, the five-day ASCLS Annual Meeting and Exposition offers cutting-edge scientific and technical workshops and symposiums. Since 1995, when ASCLS first met concurrently with the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC), our members have been able to visit the industry's largest exhibition hall to review the latest trends and technologies in laboratory testing. ASCLS members receive a substantial discount on fees for registration and exhibits at the Annual Meeting.

Personal Services:

ASCLS members can choose from a range of discount services targeted especially for clinical laboratory professionals. Participate in the ASCLS insurance programs and take advantage of group rates on health, professional liability, life, disability and automobile insurance.

Publications:

*"I am part of something bigger than myself. I am not just one of many individuals; I am part of a body."*

"Membership is a way to raise the awareness of what laboratory medicine is all about."

"I am committed to this group of people and they are committed to me. I am here to give, more than get."

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**Publications:**

ASCLS members are kept informed through two Society publications. Clinical Laboratory Science is an award-winning, quarterly journal featuring articles on the very latest in research, education and government actions affecting the profession. ASCLS Today, our newsletter, is published 10 times a year and provides timely updates on association activities in the legislative, educational and membership arenas. These two publications, along with additional mailings targeted to Society leaders, keep our members informed.

**Grassroots Activities:**

One of the important benefits to members of ASCLS is our regional, state and local meetings. These gatherings provide scientific and technical continuing education sessions, as well as networking opportunities with local and regional colleagues.

**Governmental Affairs:**

As new laws and regulations bring momentous changes to clinical laboratory science, your ASCLS membership provides you with liaisons to Members of Congress, Federal and state agencies. Our government affairs team monitors and influences laws and regulations that affect the profession. This dedicated team, coupled with extensive grassroots involvement from the membership, ensures that the concerns of the profession are heard in Congress. To ensure effective advocacy, each year ASCLS also holds a Legislative Symposium. Participants learn the manner in which current issues are being addressed within government and are briefed in lobbying skills.

Participants also meet with Members of Congress to discuss the issues important to the profession and to advocate for our best interests.



## Licensure vs. Certification – What's the difference? *by Karen Larson MLS(ASCP)CM*

The terms licensure and certification are often interchanged and misrepresented unintentionally. As a laboratory professional, it is extremely important to recognize these differences. Professional certification is a voluntary process where a non-governmental professional organization recognizes an individual who has met certain qualifications such as education, experience, and an exam of knowledge and skills needed to perform the job competently. The medical definition of licensure is the state of having a license granted by an official or legal authority to perform medical acts and procedures not permitted by persons without such a license.

One main difference to note is that states that have professional licensure require you by law to become licensed in order to perform the job you are licensed to do. While some institutions within states that do NOT have licensure may electively choose to require their workers to be professionally certified, institutions in these states do not have to hire certified workers. So, in states that do not require licensure, you will often find some organizations that choose to hire workers who are not professionally certified to perform the job that they are doing.

Here is a list of the 12 states that currently license laboratory professionals:

- California
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Louisiana
- Montana
- Nevada
- New York
- North Dakota
- Rhode Island
- Tennessee
- West Virginia

If you live in one of these states, take pride in the successful efforts of your fellow laboratorians! As many seasoned ASCLS members who are active in Government Affairs will attest, this is no easy accomplishment. It can take countless years, dollars, and hours of effort to get a professional licensure bill passed. Even when these investments are made, if the politics (and often the politicians) don't align just right, you can end up back at the drawing board.

Sadly, this is what recently happened in my state of Minnesota. This year our bill made tremendous progress and seemed to have its greatest chance of being passed. While we had support in the Senate, we could not get a hearing in the House because the Chair of the Health Committee would not grant us a hearing.

The road to professional licensure is certainly a bumpy one, with potholes both large and small, unexpected curves, and even dead ends. It can be easy to have your spirits put down, but don't allow those obstacles to stop you! Instead, find creative ways to build a new road. With our recent disappointing experiences, Minnesota laboratory professionals are brainstorming new strategies. This next legislative cycle, we will try to get the public involved as our teammates in this struggle. By educating people about the skill, education, and expertise required to provide them with the safest and best care, we hope to increase our voice to Congress.

## DCLS – New Career Option for Clinical Laboratory Scientists! *by Lacey A. Campbell MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>*

Have you considered going back to school? There's a new route of returning back to school to put your degree in Clinical Laboratory Science to good use. The program is called a Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Science (Advanced Practice Doctorate) at Rutgers University. All theoretical courses are offered online with a one year requirement of full-time clinical residency. The total length of the program is 80 credit hours with 27 credits in Advanced Clinical Laboratory Science Core classes, 22 credits in Professional Core classes, 19 in Research Core classes, and 12 in Clinical Practice Core classes. The Program Director is Dr. Nadine Fydryszewski, an active leader within ASCLS.

"The mission of the DCLS is to prepare graduates for advanced practice in clinical laboratory science, instill the importance of the interprofessional team approach to health care, and increase skills in evidence-based practice and research methodologies to conduct translational research in clinical laboratory science" (Rutgers). The DCLS program will allow clinical laboratory scientists the ability to work alongside physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurses to help assist in ordering and accurately evaluating laboratory tests to cut down on excessive lab tests and provide the most quality health care to the patients we serve.

"The DCLS is designed for the certified medical laboratory scientist, MLS (ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, with an interest in advancing theoretical and clinical learning, practice, and research. The program prepares the certified MLS for advanced practice opportunities with academic and clinical professional growth through advanced expert-knowledge and skills, critical thinking proficiency, interdisciplinary collaboration through a focused clinical residency, increased skills in evidence-based practice, and research methodologies, and by conducting translational research in clinical laboratory science" (Rutgers).

"With a plethora of clinical laboratory tests and new molecular methodologies being added to the clinical laboratory test menu, clinicians and healthcare providers are challenged with keeping abreast of the latest in laboratory services. Graduates of the DCLS are prepared to be effective leaders in many facets of the clinical laboratory science profession, particularly in advanced practice roles including serving as a consultant, similar to other allied health professionals who take part in clinical rounding and patient care" (Rutgers). A DCLS can contribute to the interprofessional healthcare team by partnering with clinical pathology to serve as consultants, work with clinicians in order to determine the correct lab tests to order and how to interpret them, help explain to the patient what their lab results mean, advocate patient safety by reducing medical errors, and help hospitals and clinics become cost effective in terms of clinical laboratory services.

The courses included within the program are clinical chemistry, hematology, hemostasis, microbiology, infectious disease, immunology/transplantation, immunohematology, epidemiology, emerging trends in clinical laboratory science, education, health policy, models to improve clinical laboratory services, as well as critical analysis and application of research and practice in the clinical set-

ting. This unique program focuses on achieving five main program competencies: quality patient care, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, outreach, and continuous practice improvement.

The admissions deadline for the DCLS program is March 1 for fall term and September 1 for spring term. Applicants must have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States with an overall GPA of 3.5 and a GPA of 3.0 in sciences courses. Professional certification as a generalist Medical Laboratory Scientist from the American Society for Clinical Pathology-Board of Certification, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> with proof of continuing certification maintenance is required. A minimum of five years of clinical laboratory experience in the United States is required, preferably as a generalist medical laboratory scientist. Completion of the Rutgers-SHRP Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science degree (MS-CLS) or completion of the SHRP-Dept. of CLS Graduate Certificate in CLS is required. The Rutgers-SHRP MS-CLS degree is preferred. Credits earned in the Rutgers-SHRP MS-CLS degree or Graduate Certificate in CLS may be applied to meet the DCLS requirements if obtained within 5 years of acceptance to the DCLS, and a grade of B or better is received. Applicants must submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General test scores taken within the last 5 years. Official transcripts of undergraduate and graduate coursework from ALL institutions attended must be submitted. Applicants must also submit a Curriculum vitae/Resume and three letters of recommendation from individuals who have the knowledge to evaluate the applicant's academic and professional performance, two letters from professional supervisors/pathologists/laboratory manager, and one letter from a college professor. They must also submit a personal statement/essay addressing career goals and reasons for pursuing the DCLS degree and complete a personal interview (on campus or by video-audio conference).

This incredible program was approved in 2012 as a subsection of the School of Health Related Professions, Dept. of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, the first advanced practice doctorate in CLS offered in the USA. "The DCLS program focuses on advanced clinical practice, which prepares medical laboratory scientists to assume expanded roles as integral members of the interprofessional healthcare team in a variety of practice settings. The DCLS offers an innovative educational experience utilizing a blended pedagogy, distance education technology, and clinical practice. The curriculum includes interdisciplinary courses which will provide students the opportunity to interact with other health care professionals and the clinical practice component further enhances this interaction" (Rutgers). This program is only the first of many DCLS programs to come!

Program Web address: <http://shrp.rutgers.edu/dept/CLS/DCLS/index.html>

## 2014 Annual Meeting Sponsors!!



### *New Professionals Committee Message*

*The New Professionals Committee provides a forum where professional leaders can clarify the needs and wants of the newest generation within our profession, and communicate them to the Board of Directors for consideration and implementation to meet those needs and wants whenever possible.*

Check us out on the web!

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