



ASCLS — California

An Affilliate of ASCLS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Issue 3 July 2009

Officers 2008—2009

President	Robert Parada
President Elect	Jihyun Moon
Past President	Ida Sutton
Secretary	Ramona Fox
Treasurer	Salim Rafidi
Directors	Terence Tay Lisa Bakken Bill Kassel Nancy Fraize

Committees

By-Laws	Jihyun Moon
Gov't Affair	Bill Kassel
Education	Lisa Bakken
Membership	Bob Parada
PACE	Ben Siapco
Judicial	Sam Chafin
Nomination	Lisa Bakken
PAC	Christine Cartagena
Newsletter	Terence Tay ttay_8888@yahoo.com

From the President:

The time is here to select our Board Members for the 2009-2010 year. Please review the candidates listed and submit your ballot.

I know the members selected are dedicated and are willing to serve the membership in the coming year. I want to thank you for your continuing membership. The future of the Laboratory Profession is still in our hands. There is a Bill in the California Assembly (AB549) that seeks to revise the educational requirements for those seeking limited clinical laboratory scientist's licenses. All Bills that affect the Clinical Laboratory Law come before your Board and they participate in deciding the pros and cons. Should ASCLS-CA support or oppose this type of legislation? This past year has been quite educational having attended all of the Clinical Laboratory Technology Advisory Committee (CLTAC) meetings.

The Department of Public Health Laboratory Field Services depends on CLTAC for advice and consent. When it is time, please renew you membership. Your support will always be needed.

The ASCLS Annual meeting this year will be in Chicago, July 21 through July 25, 2009 and next year, 2010, the meeting will be in Anaheim, California. I want to mention this because I am the Host Liaison for this meeting. I need your input for topics and speakers that will comprise the Continuing Education Program. Please contact me with your ideas and suggestions at www.armand.parada@huntington.



Robert A. Parada

Aging Workforce, Shortage of Education programs and Lack of Public Recognition = Shortage of Clinical laboratory Scientists.

According to a survey from the Healthcare Laboratory Workforce Initiative (1) about the shortage of laboratory personnel in California hospitals, the vacancy rate of clinical laboratory scientists (CLS) will increase to 30% in 2010. Approximately 40% of laboratory professionals are expected to retire within the next 10 years. Close to 81,000 technologists and technicians will be needed to replace retirees by 2014. (2)

In 2007 there were only 222 National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) accredited medical technology/ clinical laboratory science education programs compared to 770 in 1975 in the U.S. The number of clinical laboratory scientist (CLS) / medical technologist (MT) program graduates was 2,141 in 2005 compared to 6,519 in 1977 (Hilborne, 2008). Currently there are only eight programs remaining in California. The total class restriction for these programs was 89 in 2003-2004. (3)

The salary for a CLS or MT varies depending on geographical location. However, a typical MT's salary is only 50 to 70% of that of a registered nurse (RN) (4 According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (no date) California's median annual income for medical scientists is \$61,650 which is the highest average in the nation. The vast disparity in salary compared to other healthcare workers is one of the primary reasons for the decline in laboratory professionals. A major reason for this disparity is the lack of public awareness of the profession.

CLSs and MTs are often called "med techs" which doesn't differentiate from a medical laboratory technician (MLT). There is a formal distinction between a technician and a technologist/scientist that is not always understood by others. A technician has a two-year associate degree, and a technologist/scientist has a bachelor's degree.

[See Aging Workforce on page 2]

Aging Workforce (con't from page 1) :

A MLT is an assistant and must be supervised by a CLS or MT, A CLS or MT usually performs more difficult and complex analyses than technicians. However, some facilities do not understand or differentiate a CLS and MT from MLT (6).

ASCLS is a national level organization that represents your professions. The organization is working for you to promote the value of the professions to the healthcare and the public. ASCLS will keep you informed of developments that impact your professional endeavors. Please support your organization.

Jihyun Moon, BSMT (ASCP)

Microbiology, Technical Supervisor, LLUMC

**References**

1. Healthcare Laboratory Workforce Initiative (HLWI). (n.d.). *California's other healthcare crisis: The clinical laboratory workforce shortage*. Retrieved January 18, 2009, from <http://www.hospitalcouncil.net/Upload/FINAL%20Laboratory%20Workforce%20Shortage%20White%20Paper%20.pdf>
2. Hilborne, L. H. (2008, October). ASCP battles workforce shortage on many fronts: President's perspective. *American Society for Clinical Pathology*, 1.4, 7-9.
3. Lindler, V., & Chapman, S. (2003, June). The clinical laboratory workforce in California. *UCSF Center for the Health Professions*. Retrieved April 19, 2009, from http://www.futurehealth.ucsf.edu/pdf_files/clinical_lab_workforce.pdf
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5. U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *Demographic profiles: 1990 and 2000 comparison tables*. Retrieved April 19, 2009, from http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/dp_comptables.html
6. Wikipedia. (2009). *Medical technologist*. Retrieved April 19, 2009, from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_technologist

State logo :

Congratulations to Lisa Bakken for submitting the State logo. It was voted and accepted by the ASCLS CA board members to adopt this logo for the newsletter and all ASCLS CA correspondence materials with effective immediately.

*From the Editor:**Change is inevitable ...*

Change is the message of President Obama's campaign. Information technology changed the way we do diagnostic testings in the laboratory with more automated instrumentation. There was also a big change in the US economy and so change is inevitable. We must change with the times.

We are pleased to see new faces getting involved in the ASCLS-CA organization. We need your input to select new officers, and your involvement to protect our CLS interests.

You need to change and be more proactive in your profession. The economy is not at its best, and many CLSs have this lingering question, "Is my job secure?" If you look at what you are doing as a "job", your position can be eliminated or reassigned. If you remind yourself you are a professional then you can develop a skill to market yourself.

To market yourself you must need to do networking with your peers, suppliers and the best place to start is to get involved in an organization such as ASCLS-CA. You will have the support of your peers and also you will find out the demand for CLS positions that need your skill and expertise.

In conclusion let me quote a line from President John F. Kennedy, and he said, "Ask not what the country can do for you, but ask what you can do for the country", likewise the same for you and your professional organization.

I changed my look.

Terence Tay, MSMT (ASCP)

Microbiology (Retired)

*Message from Nominations Committee Chair:*

We would like to thank all of our members for your nominations. Your voice has been heard! Listed below you will find the list of the individuals who have been nominated to serve on the ASCLS-CA board of directors. In addition to the offices being voted on, our committee's within ASCLS-CA are looking for both members and non-members who are interested in becoming more involved with ASCLS-CA. These committees are Membership Development, Education/ P.A.C.E., Government Affairs, and National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (NMLPW). Those who are interested please email ASCLS.CA@gmail.com. Your involvement is what helps us serve you better.

Remember, your vote counts! Please be kind to our environment by emailing you election ballot choices to: ASCLSCA.nominations@gmail.com

Elizabeth (Lisa) Bakken

Know your nominee ASCLS-CA Board members**President Elect - Elizabeth (Lisa) Bakken**

Lisa is a Clinical Laboratory Scientist at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, CA. She has been a member of ASCLS since 2002 and has been actively involved in ASCLS in three states, but now calls California home. Currently, Lisa serves as a director for ASCLS-CA, committee chair for the Education and Nominations committees, member of the Bylaws committee, and is apart of the Revitalization Task Force for ASCLS. Lisa has attended the ASCLS national House of Delegates for the past six years and is looking forward to working with those within our profession to guide our state society into making a positive impact on the current and future professionals.

**Secretary - Romona Fox**

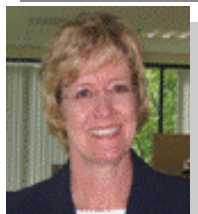
Romona has been a CLS for 26 years and is presently the Program Coordinator for Arrowhead Regional Medical Center's School of Medical Technology. She lives in Devore, California and has been the secretary for ASCLS-CA for the past four years. I feel that we each need to support to the profession in whatever way we can so that our voice can be heard.

**Director - Nancy Fraize**

Nancy has been a member of ASCLS for the past three years and has served as an interim director on the board for the past year. She was introduced to the laboratory while serving in the Air Force. Nancy worked at St. Bernardine's Hospital laboratory for two years, Loma Linda VA Hospital for four years, and currently works at both Los Angeles County Hospital and Huntington Hospital in Pasadena, California. Nancy considers this nomination for the director position to be an opportunity to be of service to her profession.

**Director -C. William (Bill) Kassel**

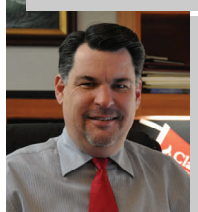
Bill is a Clinical Laboratory Bioanalyst since 1975 and is retired from the University of California, University Health Service as the Clinical Laboratory Director. Bill has been a member of ASCLS since 1969 and has served as the ASCLS-CA Government Affairs committee representative since 1989 and was the region X liaison from 2004-2006. He is a past president of ASCLS-CA and has served as a director on the board almost continually since 1988.

**Director - Ginger Weeden**

Ginger is a product manager for Bio-Rad Laboratories, specializing in autoimmune and infectious disease assays on the BioPlex 2200, a multiplexing instrument. Ginger has been active in ASCLS for many years, holding state and regional positions both in Colorado and California. She is a past president of Colorado (2 terms), attended ASCLS national Houses of Delegates for the past 8 years, and is currently Region X Member Services committee member. Ginger would like to continue her dedication by serving as a director for ASCLS-CA.

**Director - Ryan Quilatan**

Ryan is the first year professional representative for ASCLS-CA. He has been a member of ASCLS for one year. Ryan is a recent graduate of the CLS internship at Eisenhower Medical Center and currently works for Kaiser permanente. He is excite of about the opportunity of serving as a director on the ASCLS-CA board.

**Bylaws Chair (Appointed by President) - Rodney Roath**

Rodney is a veteran of both the profession and the society. He has served as President of ASCLS-CA (2 terms). Rodney has also served in other Board and committee capacities as well as various offices at the local chapter level including Inland Empire Chapter president. He has over 25 years in the Clinical Laboratory and is currently serving as the Chair of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences department of the School of Allied Health Professions at Loma Linda University.

**Student Forum Chair (Appointed by President) - Lisa Martini**

Lisa is a recent graduate from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo with a Bachelors of Science in Microbiology. Currently Lisa is completing her Clinical Laboratory internship at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage. Once completed with her internship she hopes to begin her career as a generalist.

*Ballot for voting.***ASCLS-CA Positions**

President-elect (2009—2010)

(preceding term as President and Past Pres)

Directors (3 positions) - (2 year term, 2009—2011)

Secretary - (2 year term, 2009—2011)

By-Laws Committee Chair

Appointed by President - (2 year term, 2009—2011)

Nominations Committee Chair

Appointed by President - (1 year term, 2009—2010)

**The deadline for submitting nomination ballot
to the asclsca.nominations@gmail.com****MUST BE IN BY JULY 16, 2009****Ballot**

	Yes	No
President elect (1) Elizabeth (Lisa) Bakken	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary (1) Ramona Fox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Directors (Select 3) Nancy Fraize	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. William Kassel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ginger Weeden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Quilatan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mail your ballot to

ASCLS — CA
25612 Barton Road #345
Loma Linda, CA 92354-3110

Email your ballot to asclsca.nominations@gmail.com**ASCLS - California**

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Postage