

ASCLS-TN NEWSLETTER

KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE ON ASCLS ACTIVITIES IN TENNESSEE

Volume 1, Issue 3

April 2010

First Quarter

ASCLS-TN President's Update

Welcome to the April 2010 ASCLS-TN Newsletter! We have lots of great information in this issue, and I hope you will take the time to enjoy it. If you are looking for Continuing Education opportunities, TALC 2010 is fast approaching, and you can still register! It will be held April 15th and 16th at the Opryland Radisson. At this meeting we will also elect new officers and recognize outstanding professionals from our state. If you are interested in becoming an officer, feel free to email a member of the board and we will get you the information! I hope you can join us for this wonderful meeting, and help us continue to be a strong society!

Angela Phillips, MLS
ASCLS-TN President 2008-2010



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Ideas for the
ASCLS-TN NEWSLETTER ?
Let us know! Send an e-mail to:
BeccaBL2@aol.com

TALC 2010 The Tennessee Annual Laboratory Conference Takes Over Music City

Hosting TALC in Nashville has been the main focus in Middle TN ASCLS. Speakers, and vendors, and programs-oh, my! The TALC 2010 committee is working hard to make this one of the best conferences yet.

TALC 2010 provides an opportunity to get all your required continuing education for the year and have fun while doing it. Our Keynote speaker, Dr. Mike Laposata, is nationally recognized and spoke at the 2007 National ASCLS conference in San Diego. His message on "Why Physicians Find It Difficult to Use the Clinical Laboratory Effectively" and the important role of clinical laboratory professionals is sure to

inspire. But TALC 2010 has more than just one inspirational and nationally recognized speaker. The line-up is quite impressive. Download the most recent program schedule from www.ascls-tn.org. (If you already printed a schedule, make sure you have the most recent version.)

A major focus of TALC 2010 is newer technologies, biomarkers, and 'things we didn't learn in school.' As laboratory medicine continues to evolve, ASCLS wants to help lab professionals not just follow but lead the conversation. TALC 2010 includes sessions on nanotechnology, molecular testing including FISH,

flow cytometry, sepsis markers, Vitamin D, new uses for Lactic acid testing, and biofilms. Vanderbilt University Medical Center Laboratories will host a laboratory tour and reception for the first 40 people to RSVP (information is on www.ascls-tn.org under 'meetings'). Novel technology used by Vanderbilt includes Cellavision (digital hematology differentials), a track system with 6 instruments and two centrifuges attached, and specialty testing in hemostasis, toxicology, molecular diagnostics and more. Several vendors will be available to share information about their products and services. You can get continuing education by visiting the vendors, too!

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Board Member Spotlight :

Krystal Triplett



Krystal graduated from the University of Memphis with Bachelor Degrees in Psychology and Biology and from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center with a Masters in Clinical Laboratory Science.

After graduation, Krystal began employment in the Molecular Microbiology/Virology Laboratory at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Serving as the ASCLS-TN student delegate from 2007-2008, she attended the national ASCLS meeting as well as organized activities and speakers for the student day portion of the state TALC meeting. Ms. Triplett was one of the first recipients of the Beckman-Coulter Scholarship in 2008 which allowed her to attend the national ASCLS meeting in Washington D.C. Krystal has served as the MSCLS, the Memphis Branch of ASCLS, parlia-



mentarian and presented a CE at the last TALC meeting. Currently, Ms. Triplett is serving as secretary of MSCLS, Treasurer-Elect of ASCLS-TN, a member of the national membership committee, and a member of the NP Recruitment Program Sub-Committee. When she is not busy with professional responsibilities, Krystal plays Ultimate Frisbee and supports the Memphis Tigers.

ASCLS Legislative Symposium 2010 Tennessee Travels to Capitol Hill

The ASCLS Legislative Symposium was held in Washington, DC on March 15-16, 2010. ASCLS continued its collaboration with CLMA, ASCP, and AMT again this year and almost 150 persons attended. Committed laboratory professionals and leaders from all these organizations provided a unified, visible and informed voice to make our concerns known inside Congress.

While the effort to pass the healthcare reform bill was on everyone's minds, our focus continued to be on issues that affect our profession. This year two issues were priorities for our lobbying efforts. The first was to ask our legislators to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act with provisions that will support laboratory personnel training. This is seen as a way to increase educational institutions' capacity to train persons in high-demand, high-growth industries. We all know that there is a shortage of laboratory personnel across the country and that there will continue to be a need for additional professionals as our workforce ages and fewer persons have opportunities to enter the field with appropriate training. We also asked that

the Career Pathways Innovation Fund be appropriated at the same level in 2011 as in 2010. As states experience difficulty funding educational programs and laboratory programs are threatened with closure, the availability of CPIF grants to innovate state and local clinical laboratory training programs will be essential. Part of the \$125 million in CPIF funds for 2010 was awarded this March to San Jose State University, San Diego State University, College of Southern Nevada, and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to provide training for laboratory professionals.

The second issue addressed reimbursement for clinical laboratory services. While it is inevitable that the laboratory will see cuts in reimbursement, the current approach is to reduce the Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule by 1.75% over the next 5 years and impose a Productivity Adjustment based on an annual estimate of economy-wide productivity. We feel that these cuts are too arbitrary and propose that the laboratory community come together in a negotiated rulemaking to change the clinical laboratory fee schedule with the intent of

achieving the savings that are specified in the bills before Congress. The current fee schedule, developed in 1984, does not fully reflect the cost, technology, complexity and delivery of clinical laboratory services today and we believe that by bringing the stakeholders together in negotiated rulemaking we can modernize the fee schedule to reflect the appropriate reimbursement for each test and technology.

Pictured to the right: Rebecca Rogers (Memphis), Judy Davis (Nashville), Lynn Ingram (Memphis) and Jennifer Brackett (Knoxville) represented Tennessee this year. We all met with Nick Magallanes, Legislative Correspondent in Senator Lamar Alexander's office and Anne Oswald, Legislative Assistant in Senator Bob Corker's office. Judy Davis met with Cara Dalmolin in Representative Marsha Blackburn's office and though we were unable to meet with Representative Steve Cohen while in DC, we left our 'leave-behind' documents and contact

information in his office there. There are plans to make an appointment with his office in Memphis during the Easter break to discuss our concerns.

The Legislative Symposium is a great opportunity provided by ASCLS that allows laboratory professionals to find our collective VOICE, share our VISION and define our VALUE in providing excellent healthcare to our elected officials.



Our efforts there give us a chance to influence the legislation and regulations that control the way we do our jobs. Consider joining this effort next year!

by Lynn Ingram



A message from ASCLS President Mary Ann McLane

The topic for this column focuses on a

2010 Leadership Academy project.

Below is a project proposal from two members of the current Leadership Academy class. Please review and see what you can do to help them.

Mary Ann McLane, PhD, MLS
ASCLS President 2009-10

We are contacting you to help provide a face for our profession. We are working to make a video that would showcase the people in our profession by videotaping them doing laboratory and professional related activities.

As part of the 2009-2010 ASCLS Leadership Academy we cannot complete this project without your participation. So if you could please take a video of you and your laboratory colleagues or educators doing anything that shows the face of the profession it would be much appreciated. Do not forget to make it fun! We are

planning on having the song "Shining Star" by Earth, Wind and Fire playing in the background. We want dancing none the less!

To give you an idea of what our project is trying to reflect please visit this link if you have not yet seen the Pink Glove Campaign Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEEdVfyt-mLw>

For example: At the Legislative Symposium we had people dance around carrying photo frames to literally show the face of the profession, however, this is more fun if we leave it to your interpretation. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact us at kldavenport@gmail.com or baker.866@osu.edu.

Thank you for your support, we look forward to your videos!!!!

Stacy Baker & Lindsey Davenport-Landry

Please send your footage to us no later than June 1st

A First Timer's Look at CLEC

ASCLS held its annual Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference (CLEC) in February at the Beau Rivage Hotel in Gulfport, MS. The Mississippi society did a wonderful job with organizing this conference and ensuring the program moved fluidly. This year's theme was "Catch the Wave." This theme was certainly hitting the nail on the head! There is so much that has changed for our profession in the past couple of years that it has become a necessity to remain current on a great deal of topics. The economy is continuing to impact all employers, which includes MLS and MLT programs. More programs have been closed, and we have even lost a program here in Tennessee. Legislative issues continue to affect changes in our workplace and this includes the recently passed health care reform legislation. The science of our profession continues to grow with new assays being developed, particularly in the molecular arena. This year's CLEC also offered a wonderful opportunity to meet educators not only within our own state, but also from around the nation!

I am not a clinical laboratory educator, but this conference was ripe with information and opportunities for continuing education. Some session topics included contributing to textbooks, presentation skills, developing a molecular curriculum to legislative updates. The opening keynote resonated with me and complimented the theme "Catch the Wave" The speaker was Janie Walters her talk was titled "Normal is Gone and It Won't Be Back". The first point to remember is change is inevitable and what we are

accustomed to be doing will not always be as it is. She said we have three options for dealing with change: 1.) Resist the Change 2.) Ignore the Change- refuse to be involved 3.) Embrace the Change. Once you get down to it, if you want to succeed, you need to embrace the change, because it is going to happen. She described ten steps for dealing with change, but I think step one is the most important. She said you should approach change enthusiastically and act happy. Once you adapt this as a mantra for dealing with change, then everything else will happen naturally. I know there are always tasks that I don't look forward to doing and that makes them harder to do. I just need to learn to be happy about doing them and I will succeed in completing them.

I would strongly recommend to anyone to attend at least one of the annual ASCLS CLEC meetings. It really brings one back in touch with many facets of our professions. Who Knows? You might even get lucky, as I did, and sit next to an icon of our profession, such as Bunny Rodak!



Pictured above: Wes Williamson (article author), Bunny Rodak, Linda Ross, & Rebecca Rogers

ASCLS-TN STUDENT CORNER

Vanderbilt Medical Center

TALC 2010 continued from page 1

We recognize that new is good, but a solid background in the basics is necessary. Some of your favorite speakers are back at TALC 2010 and are joined by some gifted newcomers. They will be presenting reviews on Body Fluids, Hematology, Microbiology, Hemostasis, Blood Bank and specific diseases like PNH, Adrenal diseases, and Bacterial Fasciomas.

To accommodate those looking to travel a slightly different path in their career, TALC 2010 includes sessions on laboratory education, public health, point of care and management topics. Lynn Ingram will be giving an updated version of her famous and inspirational talk, "Remember When You Loved Your Job?" Those seeking their supervisor's license will benefit from the sessions covering LEAN, leadership, budgets, and reimbursement topics. Angela Phillips, a graduate of the ASCLS National Leadership Academy, will be presenting a mini-version of the Leadership Academy for those interested in developing their leadership skills and becoming more involved in ASCLS.

ASCLS promotes community service and patient safety initiatives. TALC 2010 will introduce you to Project C.U.R.E., a non-profit organization that supplies medical equipment to poor countries. Other sessions will cover emergency preparedness and the lab's role in reducing hospital acquired infections. Given the recent healthcare debate, don't miss Judy Davis' Legislative update in which she shares what ASCLS has been doing to advocate for the medical laboratory and our patients at the

federal level. TALC 2010 will be fun! The committee co-chairs have chosen only the finest food and drinks for TALC attendees. Oh, the people you will meet if only you try! There will be many opportunities to visit with laboratorians from across the state. Students from all the State's CLS and CLT programs are invited to attend the free student activities. (Students can attend all of TALC at a significantly reduced price.) Don't go home early! We have a closing keynote speaker that refers to herself as the "Laugh Leader." She invites you to join her for some good, clean fun before you head home. Return home with a smile on your face and a spring in your step...all from attending TALC 2010

While TALC 2010 has been the focus for Middle Tennessee ASCLS, there were other activities going on this spring. At the January and March meetings, Katherine Hopper reviewed laboratory math and Dr. Amy Pyle talked about sepsis biomarkers. Future meetings depend on having a host, so if you would like to have a mid-TN ASCLS meeting at your facility, please contact Katherine Hopper or SueAnn Allen (contact information is available on www.ascls-tn.org under 'leadership'). Hosting a meeting allows you to invite your colleagues (ASCLS members and nonmembers) to an hour of free continuing education and a chance to welcome colleagues from the area. Future mid-TN meeting dates will be posted on the state society's website, but remember that meetings are dependent on an ASCLS member stepping up and offering to host a meeting.

The ten of us in the Vanderbilt medical technology class of 2010 have packed a lot into our combined 311 years. Born in six different states and in two countries outside the U.S., we've earned a total of 14 degrees in biology, chemistry, nutrition, and math. Our work experiences include jobs in health care, veterinary offices, research, restaurants, real estate, teaching, and the corporate world. Among us we have four spouses, two fiancés, six sons and two daughters, 14 dogs, 10 cats, one guinea pig, fish, and 20 goats. Four of us are A+, three O+, two AB+, and one B+, and we have 19 X chromosomes. Despite our differing backgrounds, since last June we've converged each day – traveling a combined 880 miles round trip – to attend Vanderbilt's medical technology program.

Like every med tech program we've heard about, Vanderbilt's has been challenging! The amount of material to absorb is daunting, and each day brings a new skill to learn. However, we agree that Vanderbilt offers us the best opportunities for training in our chosen field. We feel lucky in our rotations to see and use the latest technology, and to observe specimens of every type and for conditions that, in other programs, we might only read about. Our lecturers include not only technologists with many years of experience, but also physicians, residents, and Ph.D.s with the Vanderbilt Medical Center. Everyone understands how difficult the program is, but they have done their best

to help us succeed and to keep us wanting to learn more.

We've had a few lighthearted student moments this year too. For example, Vanderbilt must have the only program in which good grades might be rewarded with eggs fresh from the henhouse! We've managed to squeeze in a couple of class parties with more food than the entire lab could have eaten. And we admit to a little more fascination than necessary with "The Room" at the fertility clinic.

One more thing we agree on: we all love doughnuts.

We look forward to meeting other Tennessee medical technologists at the ASCLS meeting in Nashville in April!



Vanderbilt MT students:
Front row (left to right): Lindsay Johnson, Ashley Ladd, Jill Schrader, Yue Hou, Sonia Cerruti, Erin Park. Back row (left to right): Hematology Instructor Ginny Climo, Jamie Larsen, Theresa Myers, Jeremy Friesen, Carol Chandler (the author of the article) is not pictured.

Memphis Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Update

The meetings of the Memphis Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (MSCLS) provide opportunities to earn CE credits and meet other professionals. Attendees include bench techs, supervisors, educators, and students. Come and join us at a meeting on the first Thursday of each month! If you are a member of MSCLS and ASCLS, you may qualify to be nominated for an office. This is election time! What a great opportunity to serve and to participate in professional development activities!

Our March meeting included a tour

of Trumbull Laboratories in Memphis. Trumbull Labs provided the food for the meeting. Kudos to MSCLS President-Elect Rebecca Rogers who contacted Trumbull Lab and was successful in securing the location and the speaker, Elise McAlexander. The topic was "Pathology, Another Side of the Laboratory". Also, thanks to the administrators and staff at Trumbull for the fantastic hospitality. Our April meeting will be at Methodist University Hospital. The members of MSCLS are very appreciative of the support given by Baptist East, Regional Medical

Center, St. Jude, St. Francis, and Southwest Tennessee Community College to allow the monthly meetings to be held at their facilities in 2009 and 2010.

In celebration of National Lab Week, members are asked to give back to the community by donating food for the MidSouth Food Bank Food Drive. This is our community service project throughout the year.

By MSCLS President,
Dr. Darius Y. Wilson, Ed.D.,
MAT, BSMT (ASCP)

Congratulations 2010-11 MSCLS Officers:

President:
Rebecca Rogers
President-Elect:
Position Still Available
Secretary:
Krystal Triplett
Treasurer:
Donna Clary
Parliamentarian:
Jonathan Hardy
Student Liaison:
Rebekah Green

UPCOMING MEETINGS

TALC 2010: ASCLS-TN Annual Spring Meeting
April 15-16, 2010 in Nashville, TN

Region III Spring Council Meeting
April 23-24, 2010 in Ashville, NC

Memphis Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
All meetings begin at 5:45 pm
May 6, 2010 @ Baptist Memorial Hospital
June 3, 2010 @ St. Francis Hospital, Memphis
July 9, 2010 - Awards Banquet TBD

ASCLS - Middle Tennessee Society
All meetings begin at 5:00 pm

East Tennessee

We are still seeking volunteers to revitalize the East Tennessee chapter of ASCLS. Please let us know! Email Holly Brown at hfoosterbrown@hotmail.com or Donna Wright at dmwright@mercy.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

The Promotion of the Profession Committee is seeking volunteers to man the donation area during the 'ASCLS Provides HOPE' - the food drive at the ASCLS national meeting in Anaheim. If you would like to help out for an hour or two, contact Beth Warning, PPC Chair at beth.warning@stelizabeth.com



ASCLS

Provide the Face of the Laboratory

on Facebook

ASCLS President Mary Ann McLane challenged clinical laboratory professionals to leave the confines of the laboratory and provide a face to the nameless entity that is 'the lab'. ASCLS wishes to highlight this work during National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week by asking our members to 'Provide the Face' during lab week and post a story and photo of those moments on Facebook. The best 'Provide the Face' moment will win \$200 for a laboratory pizza celebration.

Entries will be judged on audience targeting, impact, originality, and quality. So try to reach out to those who have no idea what a laboratorian does, and create a professional, lasting impression while you explain it to them. Have your camera ready, capture the moment, and submit your photo entries along with a brief story about how you "Provided the Face of the Laboratory" during National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week. Submit your entries beginning Monday, April 19 through Sunday, May 9, 2010. The winner will be announced Wednesday, May 19, 2010. Good Luck!



Laboratory Professionals

Get Results

Who am I?

I, or someone like me, have touched you hundreds of times, but you never saw me, never felt me. I give you hope, provide joy, and unfortunately, deliver bad news. I am never there to share in your excitement or comfort you in your times of sorrow. However, I still feel these emotions from a distance.

My tasks are limitless, but always behind the scenes. I know that because of me, the world is a better place.

I am a Laboratory Scientist.

I am the one who discovered a pregnancy in the couple who had a slim hope of ever bearing a child, but was not there to "high-five" them. I gave closure to thousands of families of the 9/11 disaster by identifying the remains of their loved ones, but was not there to share their tears. I personally discovered a terrorist's weapon of choice, Anthrax, but could not bask in the limelight.

I discovered that the lump in your sister's, wife's, or mother's breast was not cancer after all (or was). I found your disease early enough for a successful recovery or

at least in time for you to wrap up loose ends.

I recognized when you needed more iron, less medication and a better diet. I identified a perfect match for the donor heart you so desperately needed. I supply most of the evidence your physician uses to diagnose your ills. But I never get to tell you so.

The laboratory community is a large, critical component of the health care industry. Our role in the delivery of health care is a dramatic one. We play a vital role in the detection, diagnosis,

and treatment of disease, spanning the continuum of health care. Laboratory tests serve as the foundation for the diagnosis and management of conditions like cardiac disease, HIV, cancer, diabetes, kidney disease and infectious diseases.

Laboratory test results contribute up to 70 percent to all medical decision making.

Karen Gordon is President of the Virginia Society for CLS. This excerpt is from an article she authored for the February 2010 issue of ASCLS

Check us out online!
www.ascls-tn.org
Join our Listserve at:
ascls-tn-members-request@ascls-lists.org