

# ASCLS-TN NEWSLETTER

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

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Third Quarter

## ASCLS-TN President's Update

Welcome back ASCLS-TN Members!

Summer is over and fall is upon us, and that means another exciting year of ASCLS-TN activities. We are pleased to present to you this newsletter, and you will be getting one every quarter. In it you will find member spotlights, student forum activity updates, government affairs updates and much more. We hope that this will serve to keep you informed and updated on all the happenings in the ASCLS world. Please let us know if there is a topic you would like to see spotlighted! And be sure to send your email address to the listserve (address on last page), so you can be updated on board meetings and other day-to-day ASCLS news. Thanks again for your membership!

**Angela Phillips, MT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, CLS(NCA)**  
ASCLS-TN President 2008-2010



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Ideas for the  
ASCLS-TN NEWSLETTER ?  
Let us know! Send an e-mail to:  
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## ASCP BOR and NCA form Unified Certification Agency



(Chicago) - The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Registry (BOR) and the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA) on July 21, 2009, signed an agreement forming a single certification agency for medical laboratory professionals. The agency will be called the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC). The agreement is effective on Friday, October 23, 2009. At that time, the NCA will be dissolved as a corporation.

Kathleen Becan-McBride, MT(ASCP), BOR Chair, and Susan Morris, CLS (NCA), NCA President, announced the agreement at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) this week in Chicago.

"Unity in the clinical laboratory profession will bring more recognition and respect from the public and other healthcare professions," said Ms. Becan-McBride. "We will increase

our credibility when advocating for the profession on legislative and regulatory issues that impact our practice."

Ms. Morris said that a single credential and single standard of qualification will simplify entry into the profession for new graduates. "Likewise, employers will find it easier to set standards for entry level competency that will ensure patient safety," she added.

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## Board Member Spotlight :



### Sue Ann Allen

Nashville, TN. While in this position, she has the opportunity to interact with nurses and physicians, giving a face to the profession of clinical laboratory science.

Sue Ann is an ASCLS-TN Past-President, and was Tennessee's 2009 Member of the Year. She was also nominated for the National



ASCLS Member of the Year in 2009.

Sue Ann's most recent endeavor in the ASCLS arena has been the rebirth of the Nashville local society. The society is now on track with bi-monthly meetings and an ever-increasing membership.

## ASCLS-TN Delegation Travels to Chicago, Illinois in July

The 2009 ASCLS House of Delegates was held on Saturday, July 25, 2009, at the Chicago Renaissance Hotel in downtown Chicago, IL to culminate this year's ASCLS Annual Meeting.

Representing the state of Tennessee were: Angela Phillips, ASCLS-TN President; Jennifer Brackett, ASCLS-TN Co-Student Delegate; Rebecca Rogers, Delegate; Wes Williamson, Delegate; (2nd row) Judy Davis; Sue Ann Allen; Lynn Ingram; Tiffany Landis, ASCLS-TN Co-Student Delegate; Jonathan Hardy, Delegate; and (3rd row) Tim Wallace.



## Challenge from ASCLS President Mary Ann McLane - Bring It!!



Mary Ann McLane, a Health Sciences faculty member in the Department of Medical Technology at the University of Delaware, was installed on July 25, 2009 as the 75th President of the ASCLS at the annual meeting in Chicago. This is the first time that someone from Delaware has held this position.

The central theme of Dr. McLane's presidential year will be "Provide the Face". The vast majority of the general public, healthcare practitioners and legislators are unaware of the education and expertise needed to carry out the testing

that we perform in the laboratory. This lack of awareness is having a significant impact on the personnel shortage, patient safety and proposed legislation related to healthcare reform.

Dr. McLane's focus will be on efforts to increase the visibility of clinical laboratory professionals in Delaware and throughout this country, emphasizing their critical contribution to patient diagnosis and treatment. She wants all of us to do the same. In her acceptance speech in Chicago, she provided insight into her "Provide the Face" concept,

and outlined her challenge to all of us who are clinical laboratory professionals. Go here to listen to her speech <http://www.ascls.org/leadership/board.asp>.

Listen, and then share your thoughts with her. Mary Ann wants us to document every effort we make to break that "Black Box" of invisibility faced by the laboratory profession. E-mail, Facebook, or text her the details!

Mary Ann McLane  
mclane@UDeL.edu  
302-740-3114

ASCLS-TN was the proud recipient of the "3rd Place Greatest Percent Increase in Non-Student Membership" for 2008-2009.

## Middle-Tennessee ASCLS Society Update

It's been a slow, but encouraging start to a more active Middle-TN chapter of ASCLS-TN. Monthly meetings began during the fall of 2008 spearheaded by Sue Ann Allen and Katherine Hopper. They have been hosted by several Nashville hospitals including Centennial Medical Center, Baptist Hospital, St. Thomas Hospital, and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Tennes-

see State University also hosted a meeting. With crowds averaging 15 to 20 laboratorians, people came together to learn more about their profession and get to know each other better. Topics included Vitamin D Testing, Infectious Agents in Peanut Butter, ABO Discrepancies, The Current and Future Role of CLS, and a Review of Body Fluids. The summer

months provided a long vacation from local meetings, but due to the positive response from area lab professionals (ASCLS members and non-members alike), future meetings are being planned. Sue Ann and Katherine seek assistance from Middle-TN members: let them know if you'd like to host a meeting at your facility. They will provide the support you need!

## ASCP BOR and NCA continued from page 1

ASCP BOR Executive Director E. Blair Holladay, PhD, SCT (ASCP)CM, commended the work of the negotiation teams, examination committees, and the participating organizations' boards and staff.

"This process to achieve a single certification agency took four years and involved many hours of negotiation, consideration of many different models, careful deliberation and due diligence, and a determination to make this work for the profession," Dr. Holladay added.

"We knew going into these discussions that it would take time, leadership and great care to create a new, unified Board of Certification that combined the best of both certification organizations," Ms. Morris said.

Sheila O'Neal, NCA Executive Director, said that much of the negotiation process work focused on creating a newly reorganized board structure and composition, and on resolving variances in policies between the two organiza-

tions. "None of that could be announced before now because we have been busy coming to agreement," she said. "Now we will roll up our sleeves and start the operational work."

The BOC Board of Governors will be composed of five ASCP Fellows (pathologists), five ASCP laboratory professionals, four representatives of ASCLS, two representatives of the Association of Genetic Technologists, eight representatives from the eight participating societies respectively, and one public representative.

The "ASCP" suffix will be attached to all BOC certifications. Current and active certifications will be transferred to the ASCP BOC; no examination will be required for the transfer. Medical technologists (MT) and clinical laboratory scientists (CLS) will be called Medical Laboratory Scientists (MLS). The designation will be MLS(ASCP).

More information and answers to frequently asked questions about the ASCP Board of Certification will be posted at [www.ascp.org/bor](http://www.ascp.org/bor) and [www.nca-info.org](http://www.nca-info.org).

## ASCLS-TN STUDENT CORNER University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Recently the Senior Class of the Medical Technology program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center took a field trip to LifeBlood in Memphis. The students got to see the blood donation process from beginning to end, and they were intrigued. They learned that one whole blood collection can be used to make many products, and that when a patient receives a blood transfusion, they do not always get whole blood. Depending on the situation, the patient can just receive plasma or platelets.

These students got to witness the time and precision it takes to separate the different blood

components accurately and precisely, and they learned that blood banks are regulated by the FDA, in addition to other agencies, because blood is considered a drug.

The UT seniors also got to learn about the QC involved in blood collecting, from the temperature of blood products to the effectiveness of the transport boxes that the products are delivered in. They saw how all of these things come together to make sure that hospitals are giving their patients safe blood products. The students really enjoyed visiting LifeBlood and seeing the blood collection center and blood bank in action. Some of them were so moved that they donated blood!



UTHSC seniors on a recent visit to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (from L to R): Angela Johnson, Erin Strong, Rebekah Green, Kim Le, Brian Lee, and Tiffany Landis.

## Memphis Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Update

Following a successful planning meeting in late July, the Memphis Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (MSCLS) has held continuing education sessions for the Memphis area laboratory community in both August and September. In August, Ms. Renee Wilson of Methodist Extended Care Hospital spoke on the topic "Managing Change - Med Tech Outside of the Lab - Can you survive?" and in September Mr. Chris

Seay, Manager of Laboratory Support at St. Jude spoke about "Specimen Processing for In-House and Reference Labs".

MSCLS is planning to hold meetings in both October and November this next quarter with Rebecca Rogers, of St. Jude discussing the NCA & BOR Merger in October and Mr. Terry Cox, Attorney at Law lecturing on Legal Issues Affecting Clinical Laboratory Professionals.

In August, MSCLS recognized former CLA program graduates, and in September members participated in the 9/11 National Day of Service by volunteering for the Mid-South Food Bank's Hunger Action Weekend. In November they will be sponsoring a food drive for the Mid-South Food Bank as they prepare to gear up for the holiday season, and members are planning a Christmas Party in December.

### 2009-10 MSCLS Officers:

**President:**

**Darius Wilson**

**President-Elect:**

**Rebecca Rogers**

**Secretary:**

**Krystal Triplett**

**Treasurer:**

**Donna Clary**

**Parliamentarian:**

**Joseph Davis**



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Memphis Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

All meetings begin at 5:45 pm  
November 5, 2009 @ SWTCC  
December - No meeting  
January 7, 2010 @ Baptist East

### ASCLS - Middle Tennessee Society

All meetings begin at 5:00 pm  
October 22, 2009 @The Vanderbilt Clinic, Room 4801

### Region III Fall Council Meeting

November 7, 2009  
Jackson, MS

### Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference

February 25-27, 2010  
Biloxi, MS

### TALC 2010: ASCLS-TN Annual Spring Meeting

April 15-16, 2010  
Nashville, TN

ASCLS serves as the voice of clinical laboratory professionals, creating a vision for the advancement of the clinical laboratory practice field, and advocating the value and the role of the profession in ensuring safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient centered healthcare.

#### Core Values:

- Promoting the value of the profession to healthcare and the public;
- Uniting the profession to speak with one voice;
- Advocating on behalf of the profession;
- Promoting professional independence;
- Enhancing quality standards and patient safety;
- Ensuring workplace safety;
- Providing professional development opportunities;
- Promoting expanded roles and contributions of clinical laboratory professionals to the healthcare team.

### Calling all East Tennessee ASCLS Members!!

Are you interested in reviving a local ASCLS chapter? I am looking for others anxious to organize local meetings.

Please contact Holly Brown,  
Young Professional Chair  
[hfosterbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:hfosterbrown@hotmail.com).

### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE - WORKING FOR YOU!

Healthcare Reform: As of today, the Annual Fee on Clinical Laboratories is NOT included in the Baucus bill presently in the House of Representatives. GAC is holding monthly conference calls and is submitting multiple articles for ASCLS Today and CLS. CapWiz was utilized for the first time at the end of August to notify members to act regarding the proposed 20% laboratory co-pay.

As always, Don Lavanty (ASCLS Lobbyist) and Elissa Passiment (ASCLS Executive Vice-President) are keeping us up to date on the goings-on in DC and what we need to keep an eye out for. We in GAC in turn let you, our members, know what action you need to take.



### ASCLS Young Professional of the Year 2009 - Rebecca Rogers

Rebecca is a 2004 graduate of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Program in Medical Technology. She is currently pursuing her Master's in Clinical Laboratory Science at UTHSC, with an expected graduation date of December 2009. Rebecca previously received a BS in Microbiology from Mississippi University for Women (MUW) prior to enrolling at UTHSC.

She has served terms on the ASCLS-TN Board as Student

Delegate, Student Forum Chair and Board Member. Rebecca was a driving force behind the rebirth of the Memphis local society in 2005. Her enthusiasm and actions have reinvigorated the Memphis Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, which now meets monthly with a regular attendance of more than 25 persons. She has served in multiple offices in the Memphis Society, from Parliamentarian to the 2008-2009 President.

Ms. Rogers has focused her

passion for activism on other endeavors as well as ASCLS activities. In the quest to 'go green', she was invited to join the committee at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to increase recycling and energy conservation efforts within the Department of Pathology. She is active in her social clubs at MUW, going back for homecoming every year to help show the new recruits the ropes.

Congratulations Rebecca!

Rebecca Rogers after receiving her award in Chicago at the ASCLS National Meeting.

Check us out online!

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

Join our Listserve at:

[ascls-tn-members-request@ascls-lists.org](mailto:ascls-tn-members-request@ascls-lists.org)