



BadgerLab Times

A Publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Wisconsin

Fall/Winter, 2017

President's Message



Susan Stalewski

Hello fellow laboratory science professionals! I was pleased to see a recent survey by Payscale.com listing Medical Laboratory Science as #2 of the 12 Most Meaningful Majors! <https://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report/most-meaningful-majors>. I have always been proud of the importance and impact of our profession and believe that my peers in the laboratory community feel the same. Evidence suggests that a strong professional society is a key indicator of a strong profession. The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science represents medical laboratory professionals and the laboratory industry in a way that no other organization in the United States does, and there is no more significant time to stand strong for the importance of medical laboratories and the professionals who work in them.

Consider the possibilities of joining ASCLS. You get to be a member of a like-minded community, you get to have peer medical laboratory scientists advocating for your work and the laboratory industry in Washington D.C., you get to be in-the-know about late-breaking

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ASCLS Annual Meeting

Report from ASCLS-WI Delegates

The ASCLS Annual Meeting was held in San Diego, California on July 31-August 3, 2017. Susan Stalewski, Mallory Janquart, April Harkins, Samantha Treutel, Ali Nussbaum, Cindy Koffman, Patricia Boyer, Nicole Buza, and Tricia Ross represented ASCLS-Wisconsin. All delegates attended governance, leadership, and scientific sessions of interest as well as the required Region V and House of Delegates meetings.

Board of Directors Meeting

Distribution problems related to the *ASCLS Today* publication, which is a benefit of membership, were discussed. Ongoing difficulties interfered with the regular distribution of this publication in 2016-17. The intent is to resume regular distribution of *ASCLS Today*. The ASCLS Strategic Plan was reviewed. The overarching strategic goal is to actively engage and prepare medical laboratory professionals to transform healthcare by implementing strategies and actions to invigorate and grow ASCLS.

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ASCLS is proposing a redesign of membership to better reflect trends in professional organizations and better serve our membership. Any action will take place in 2019.

House of Delegates

The House of Delegates focused its work on discussion of proposed membership category changes. Look for more information in the months to come. The membership committee hopes to have the proposed changes ready for a vote at the 2018 House of Delegates.

Government Affairs and Political Action Committee

Unlike many other groups within ASCLS, the ASCLS Political Action Committee (PAC) is not truly a "committee" of the society. The PAC is a board overseeing management of the monies donated to support the political activities of the society. ASCLS is the *only* laboratory professional organization with a PAC. This is interesting because a PAC can only solicit money from its membership – think of the opportunities the profession may be missing out on! The Board of Trustees focus in 2018 is to raise \$1000 per state for a total goal of \$50,000 for the year. In Government Affairs, Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) continues to be the number one topic of concern with work force shortages a strong second. Look for updates from the committee coming to you this fall via the member communities on the national website.

Leadership Development Committee

New this year is the creation of a national task force to look at the purpose, curriculum, and needs of the national, regional, and state Leadership Academies. Region V also sponsors a Leadership Academy, and Wisconsin is allowed to send two members each year. Please go to the Region V website (www.regionvascls.online) or contact Sue Stalewski ([sstalews@uwm.edu](mailto:ssstalews@uwm.edu)) for more information.

Product Development Committee

The Product Development Committee (PDC) is responsible for identifying educational products and online courses to be developed. The committee is also

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responsible for contacting individuals to write or produce the products. The PDC will be establishing its action plan with goals in the fall for the first Board meeting. The board liaison and members will be meeting by phone every month and more if necessary. The PDC will also use the discussion community board for communication.

Notable information about ASCLS-WI members:

- Past President (2003-04) Cindy Koffman was inducted into the Alpha Mu Tau fraternity. Alpha Mu Tau is a national fraternity whose purpose is the advancement of professionals in the clinical laboratory sciences. Acceptance into the fraternity is a high honor recognizing professional contributions and service.
- Samantha Treutel completed the ASCLS Leadership Academy where current and future ASCLS leaders learn skills for professional leadership.
- Past President (1982-83) Norine Janzen was recognized for fifty years of ASCLS membership
- Past President (2016-17) Mallory Janquart was recognized as the ASCLS-Wisconsin Member of the Year.

ASCLS WI members serving in national leadership roles:

- Mallory Janquart – Leadership Academy Vice Chair
- Nicole Buza – Leadership Development, Phlebotomy SA Chair
- Estelle Ninneman –SA Coordinator Vice Chair, Phlebotomy SA Vice Chair
- Ali Nussbaum – Government Affairs, Political Action
- April Harkins – Product Development
- Cindy Koffman – Leadership Development
- Sue Stalewski, SA coordinator, Body of Knowledge Committee Vice Chair

Congratulations to all!

news impacting your profession, and you get to stand proud with fellow medical laboratory scientists. Some pretty good possibilities -- right? Just think of the impact we Wisconsinites (cheese heads?) could have if every laboratory professional in Wisconsin was a member of ASCLS. As I begin this 2017-18 term as the President of ASCLS-WI, I ask all of the people I know and those I have yet to meet - please join me. www.ascls.org

Sue Stalewski
ASCLS – WI President, 2017 – 2018
sstalews@uwm.edu



On the Road to Understanding Telling our Story

Medical laboratory professionals contribute to the healthcare team every day and in many ways. The ASCLS Promotion of the Profession Committee is marking the distance from San Diego (Annual Meeting 2017) to Chicago (Annual Meeting 2018) with stories about the impact of laboratory professionals on patient care. We know about the excellent work we do, so let's make sure that others know, too. Tell your story about how you demonstrated the value of our profession to others (how to collect a specimen, test interpretation, test selection, or other) on the ASCLS link <http://www.ascls.org/advocacy-issues/share-your-story>. Would you like to represent ASCLS-WI as a delegate at the Annual Meeting in Chicago? Watch for the call for delegate nominations next spring. ASCLS Annual Meetings are fun, great ways to network with other ASCLS colleagues and learn more about what is happening in the world of medical laboratory science.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ASCLS Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference (CLEC)
February 22-24, 2018: Houston, TX

ASCLS Legislative Symposium
March 19-20, 2018: Washington, D.C.

ASCLS-WI Annual Meeting
April 25 - 26, 2018: Milwaukee, WI
(April 24--Student Bowl)

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week – April 22-28, 2018

ASCLS Annual Meeting
July 30 – August 2, 2018: Chicago, IL

ASCLS Region V

Region V consists of ASCLS Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. For further information about region activities visit www.regionvascls. The Region V Director is Dr. Pat Tille who can be reached at patille@live.com.





Be sure to check out our website for updated information: www.ascls-wi.org. View the color version of BadgerLab Times at this site.

Opportunities Available!

Would you like to be more involved in our professional community? ASCLS-Wisconsin seeks your talent and expertise. Time commitment varies and depends on your own interest but will generally be less than 5 hours/month

Membership Committee - Plan and implement membership recruitment .

Communication Committee – Plan and oversee ASCLS-WI communications through all traditional and social channels

National Medical Laboratory Week Chairperson – Coordinate communication and idea-sharing with ASCLS-WI branch societies and members.

Scientific Assembly Chairs (multiple disciplines available) – coordinate and disseminate scientific information to ASCLS-WI members and ASCLS leadership. Serve as a consultant to annual meeting planning and other state activities as needed.

Contact ASCLS-WI President Sue Stalewski if you have interest in one of these opportunities. ([sstalews@uwm.edu](mailto:ssalews@uwm.edu))

ASCLS National Scientific Assemblies

Many times Wisconsin members tell us they would like to be more involved, and the ASCLS Scientific Assemblies (SAs) are a great way to do this. The Scientific Assemblies offer our members opportunities for scientific, professional, and personal growth. Through the SAs you become connected with other laboratory science experts throughout Wisconsin and the United States. Select as many SAs as you like by editing your member profile. Would you like to know more about how you can participate? Contact Sue Stalewski, ASCLS Scientific Assembly coordinator, [sstalews@uwm.edu](mailto:ssalews@uwm.edu)

ASCLS-WI Loves to Award Members

The ASCLS-WI State Meeting is just around the corner! Now is the perfect time to nominate a candidate for recognition of their hard work and accomplishments. Honor those who have made a positive impact on our profession. Applications are available at ascls-wi.org/awards. The deadline is March 15th, 2018.

Samantha Treutel and Ali Nussbaum

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jamie Solem, MLS student from UW-Oshkosh who is doing her internship at Ascension-St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton. Jamie is the 2017 recipient of the Fox Valley Society Donna Jones Scholarship.



Left to right: Melissa Kasper presents check to Jamie Solem.

BadgerLab Times

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Article Submission

Articles for BadgerLab Times should be submitted in Microsoft Word format and sent electronically to: linda.laatsch@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for the spring/summer issue is May 15th, while the deadline for the fall/winter issue is October 15th.

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ASCLS-WI Career Starter Memberships

Your membership is so important to us that ASCLS-WI offers these special rebates to our new professionals. Professional organizations are strong through their membership and ASCLS helps you to be a successful laboratory professional.

First Year Professionals: (FYP) \$55 Rebate for ASCLS membership + Wisconsin membership. (net cost to FYP members = \$0) Open to persons who have graduated within the last twelve months from an accredited program in clinical laboratory science. Previous student membership is not required.

Renewing First Year Professionals: ASCLS-WI rebates 50% of ASCLS and ASCLS-WI dues when you renew as a Professional I or II. You must be a First Year Professional in the previous membership year to qualify for this rebate.

Go to ASCLS-Wisconsin <http://www.ascls-wi.org/> for membership rebate information.



Elections

Call for Nominations

Be part of the 2018-19 leadership of our State society by running for office or recommending a colleague for one of the following positions:

- President – Elect
- Secretary
- At-large Board of Directors Member – 2 positions
- Nominations Committee – 1 position
- Student Forum Chair – to be elected by student membership

Duties and Responsibilities for these positions can be found in the Bylaws located at www.ascls-wi.org If you need additional information or wish to nominate someone, please contact the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Kelly Robinson, at:

Kdrobinson0321@gmail.com

Wisconsin Society for Clinical Laboratory Science SCHOLARSHIP FUND, Inc.

Congratulations to our Clinical Year MLS Scholarship Award Winners for 2017-18:

Mary Muckerheide Clinical Year Scholarship:
Carley Bill, UW LaCrosse

Ron Laessig Clinical Year Scholarship:
Morgan Riese, UW LaCrosse

Pat Jakus Clinical Year Scholarship:
Angela Kessler, UW Stevens Point

Other Clinical Year Scholarship recipients:

April Geiger, UW Oshkosh

Brittany Riese, UW Oshkosh

The **Racine/Kenosha Clinical Year Scholarship** went to *Melissa Mutchler* of Pleasant Prairie. Melissa is a UW LaCrosse senior.

Donations Appreciated: All money for scholarships comes from member donations or proceeds from the Silent Auction held at our annual state meeting. As the year draws to a close, **you may wish to make a donation that can be deducted on your 2017 income taxes.** Donations of money (checks made out to WISCLS Scholarship Fund, Inc.) can be sent to Treasurer Barb Hill, 876 Jean Circle, Oregon, WI 53575. Also, please start thinking about items that you might be able to donate to the April 2018 Silent Auction. Questions?? Contact Linda Laatsch, Scholarship Chair, at linda.laatsch@sbcglobal.net.

Post-Grad Scholarship: Are you an ASCLS-WI member who attends graduate school in a field directly related to CLS? This includes those of you working on degrees in Management, Education, Computer Science or other specialty areas relevant to laboratory medicine. Consider applying for the Weisberg Post-Graduate Scholarship. For further information, contact John Strous at strou@uwosh.edu or the Scholarships page of www.ascls-wi.org. **Applications are due December 1st.**



Lighting the Way

2018 ASCLS-WI State Convention

**Where: Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**When: Wednesday & Thursday
April 25 - 26, 2018**
(Student Bowl: Tuesday, April 24)



ASCLS-WI Members
at the ASCLS Annual
Meeting in San Diego
this past August



ASCLS is issuing a Call to Action to its members. Below is information excerpted from the ASCLS website. To connect to their Call to Action link, visit www.ASCLS.org

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is proposing more than \$600 million in cuts to laboratory reimbursements beginning January 1, 2018, with total cuts rising to as much as \$1.5 billion annually compared to current reimbursement levels by 2020. These cuts are part of a flawed implementation of the Preserving Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) passed in 2014. **Over ten years, the cuts may total as much as \$13 billion, which is more than three times the estimate of \$3.9 billion Congress originally anticipated.**

The impact of cuts to the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule (CLFS) will fall disproportionately on nursing homes served by local hospitals, small independent laboratories, and laboratories in physician offices, as well as Medicare-dependent hospitals and community hospitals in rural areas.

Having committed the agency to a deeply-flawed data collection process, CMS has now drafted a distorted fee schedule built on questionable data collected from just five percent of the laboratories in the United States. CMS admits that just 1.85 percent of data was collected from laboratories serving rural areas. Large, national laboratories efficiently deliver an important component of laboratory services, but function using entirely different models of care and reimbursement than laboratories serving local communities. Smaller, local, independent, physician office and hospital laboratories, functioning closest to the patient and clinician, provide services for nursing home residents, patients requiring frequent testing for management of chronic conditions like diabetes and hypothyroidism, same day information for oncologists to treat their patients undergoing chemotherapy or those suffering from infections that require rapid detection and identification for proper monitoring and treatment. To serve the needs of their patients, local laboratories provide more rapid results drawn from more specialized test menus without economies of scale. The methods used by CMS to collect and interpret an incomplete dataset without validation excluded the possibility of measuring those differences.

Cuts to the CLFS will have a ripple effect through private insurers and other government payors like Medicaid, which use the CLFS to set their own rates. The outpatient laboratory service system in the United States could see a reduction in total annual reimbursements by as much as 25 percent over the next three years. The result will be a dramatic reduction in available testing and access to laboratory services for patients and clinicians. The cuts will also result in a near elimination of capital investment in the latest technologies needed to improve care. While these cuts directly impact outpatient services, because some of these laboratories share resources within hospitals, there will be a spillover effect to inpatient care because laboratories will no longer be able to afford the breadth of testing offered now, especially in rural areas.

Last year, the 21st Century Cures Act passed Congress with broad, bipartisan support, to usher in the advent of precision medicine. Implementation of PAMA, as it is currently structured, will cut off access to the vital laboratory data that underpins this emerging approach to delivering healthcare. **Congress must act to prevent their constituents from losing access to these critical, life-saving medical services.**

Solution

Through the chairs of the Senate Finance, House Ways and Means and House Energy and Commerce, Congress must communicate to the Administration that these misguided cuts must not be implemented. Delay is critical until CMS can work with stakeholders to demonstrate the agency can properly collect and validate data that accurately reflects the market.

Additional Resources

[ASCLS and CLMA Sign Onto Letter with Laboratory Coalition](#)

[HHS Office of Inspector General Reports on PAMA Implementation](#)

[CMS Website for PAMA Regulations](#)



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Renew Your Membership in ASCLS

If you have not renewed already, please go to the ASCLS website (ascls.org/join-ascls/join) to learn more about renewing online. Memberships run from August 1st, 2017 to July 31st, 2018. If you do not renew, this will be your last issue of *BadgerLab Times*. Don't miss out on this and many ASCLS benefits!!!