



BadgerLab Times

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

Fall 2005

President's Message

Linda Laatsch

Fall is a time that we are reminded of change on a daily basis. Some of that change is welcome, such as the arrival of vibrantly colored leaves and anticipation of the holiday season that will soon be upon us. Other changes are not so eagerly awaited – cold weather and snow-clogged highways. So, too, are our reactions to change in our workplaces and lives.

There have been changes at your state society. This past spring our membership voted in favor of changing our name to "American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science – Wisconsin" (ASCLS-WI). Other states have already made the change, so this puts us in line with the current approach of putting the "name brand", ASCLS, front and center. We are working hard this year to improve communications with our members. Our website, www.ascls-wi.org, is being updated more frequently to provide you with current information. This issue of BadgerLab Times, our official newsletter, is the first since the passing of editor Mary Muckerheide several years ago. A copy of the newsletter will also be posted on our website. Finally, there is a statewide e-

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Student Bowl Highlights

Linda Milson

The Student Bowl competition took place on Wednesday evening, April 6 at the Racine Marriott.

This year's event introduced a new game format developed by Michael Leuchtmann, a Marquette University student from St. Louis. As an outside interest, Michael wrote the program to display the printed questions on a screen at the same time they were being read by the moderator. The new format included a time clock and scoreboard eliminating those volunteers positions needed in previous years. Until the "program" gets smarter, we will still need moderators and judges for the annual Student Bowl competition. So mark your calendars for April 25, 2006, as we head to Eau Claire for **TECHS IN THE CITY**.

The 13 teams competing this year included Affinity Health System (1 team), Aspirus Reference Laboratory – Aspirus Wausau Hospital (1 team), Chippewa Valley Technical College (1 team), Marquette University (2 teams), UW - Milwaukee (3 teams), UW - Stevens Point (2 teams), Zablocki - VAMC (2 teams) and Western Wisconsin Technical College (1 team).

Western Wisconsin Technical College won the CLT competition. Members of the winning team are Stephanie Boardman (captain), Brian Simmons, Jackie Barth, Emily Stewart and alternate Corey Dulek. (Photo not available)



Pictured from left: Tate O'Kelly, Jeannette Packee, Trina Luebstorff and Mark Maticcek, CLS Program Director-Zablocki VA Medical Center

mail distribution for our members. Earlier this fall, I e-mailed all members a copy of our Leadership Directory, listing contact information for our Board of Directors, Committee Chairpersons, and Local Society Presidents. If you have not been getting monthly reminders that your e-mail address is on this list, please let me know at Linda.Laatsch@marquette.edu.

ASCLS also made some changes this past year. They added a Board of Directors position for a First Year Professional member and added a Young Professionals Committee, both of which are designed to encourage the involvement of clinical laboratorians with 5 years or less experience in our profession. A new ASCLS Mission/Vision Statement was approved by delegates at our annual convention. It reads:

ASCLS serves as the voice of all 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 ensuring safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient centered health care.

ASCLS has also been very active this year advocating for our profession on Capitol Hill.

It is likely that you have all dealt with change in one form or another in your place of work. Our profession is one of constant change as we adapt to new technologies and medical/scientific discoveries. Thank you for whatever role you play in the delivery of quality laboratory medicine and for weathering changes, even when the challenge seems insurmountable. The patients you serve appreciate your dedication, and I know I speak for the ASCLS-WI Board of Directors in saying that we appreciate all that you do.

Linda Laatsch
ASCLS-WI President 2005-06

ASCLS Region V Director's Report

Rick Panning

At the February 2005 Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC), in Williamsburg, VA, a panel of laboratory managers presented a case for change in

the way we educate and utilize laboratory professionals. The basic point made was that there was a mismatch between the current CLS and CLT curriculum and the real world needs of the workplace. This mismatch was causing dissatisfaction for both educators and hiring managers. Susan Morris, ASCLS President at the time, named a formal collaborative task force to address this issue: "Practice Levels & Educational Needs for Clinical Laboratory Practitioners." At the 2005 ASCLS national meeting in Orlando, the task force was formed and had its initial meeting. The task force estimated that the project would occur over two years. The group is a collaborative ASCLS/CLMA/ASCP initiative.

Although I am not a member of the task force, I was asked to be the facilitator of the task force process. The task force felt that to help give some credence to their process, a well accepted process improvement methodology should be used. It was decided to use 6 Sigma DMAIC (**D**efine, **M**easure, **A**nalyze, **I**mprove, **C**ontrol). On October 22-24, in Washington, DC, the first formal working meeting of the task force was convened. Because the DMAIC methodology was new to the task force members, I provided just-in-time training for the process and the tools that would be used. A measurement plan was developed and will likely occur between now and May 2006. Measurement will happen through surveys and focus groups, in addition to other methods. Some of this will be aided by web and audio conference technology, while others will happen in person with groups at 2006 CLEC, the 2006 CLMA meeting, ASCLS spring meetings, ASCP's spring leadership conference and other venues.

The task force's next meeting will be by a web-enabled audio conference in December. Eventually, we will be placing all of our information and polls on the ASCLS website. We will keep the entire membership apprised of our progress. If done right, the outcomes of this task force could have a significant impact on our profession.

I hope everyone has enjoyable holidays in November and December. Stay tuned for more information from the action packed ASCLS agenda! ♦

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2006 Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference

March 2-4, 2006; San Antonio, TX

ASCLS Legislative Days

March 27-28, 2006; Washington, D.C.

2006 ASCLS-WI Annual Meeting

April 26-27, 2006; Eau Claire, WI

ASCLS 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 25-29, 2006, CHICAGO, IL



LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS

Providing Answers. Guiding Cures.

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week | 2006

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week 2006

April 23 – 29, 2006

Watch the ASCLS website (www.ascls.org) for more information

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week provides the profession with a unique opportunity to increase public understanding of and appreciation for, clinical laboratory personnel. This activity, which takes place the 4th week in April each year, is coordinated by a collaborative committee with representatives from 11 national clinical laboratory organizations, including ASCLS.

In the fall of 2005 the planning committee voted to officially change the name from National Medical Laboratory Week (NMLW) to National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (NMLPW). This change was made to emphasize the person whose expertise is needed in the performance of laboratory testing and not the location where the testing is performed.

Awards - 2005

The following awards were presented this past April at our annual meeting and convention. Congratulations to all!

Friends of WISCLS:

Affinity Health/St. Elizabeth Hospital

Presented to institutions that demonstrate continuous support of our state society and the profession of clinical laboratory science.

Continuing Education Award:

Madison Area Society

For recognition of the branch society that presents the most continuing education opportunities during the year.

Membership Award:

Madison Area Society

Presented to the branch society that has the greatest percentage of growth in active members for the previous year.

Faith Dravis Award: This award is given to individuals who have been members of our state society for 25 years.

Lisa Bain

Eilene Eisenberg

Gail Peter

Jacqueline Zurn

Debora Clark

Pamela Kling

Julie Seehafer

Key to the Future: Allissun Guthrie

A recognition of ASCLS members who have demonstrated their leadership potential to the organization.

Board Service Awards: In recognition of outstanding service to our state society and profession.

Donna Byrne

Toni Kuehl

Patricia Limbach

Virginia Rogers

Mary Jo Tietge

Judy Wiltgen

Cynthia Koffman

Linda Laatsch

Linda Milson

Susan Stalewski

Stacy Walz

Talora Zank

ASCLS Omicron Sigma Awards: Presented to members who have provided outstanding service to ASCLS and profession at the regional or national level.

Cynthia Koffman

Virginia Rogers

Linda Laatsch

Joyce White

Congratulations to All of the Winners!



TECHS IN THE CITY

*Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Ramada Inn Convention Center
April 26th and 27th 2006
(Student Bowl April 25th)*

Whether you come from a large or small city, Laboratory Personnel play a crucial role in the lives of millions of people.

Come join us in Eau Claire and check out some interesting speakers, wonderful innovations in technology, and fabulous food!

Mark your calendars today!!

2005 Career Skills Expo

WISCLS sponsored an exhibit again this year at the Career Skills Expo held in Madison on April 28 – perfect timing to coincide with National Medical Laboratory Week. More than 3000 students from schools around the State participated in contests, visited the many exhibits and attended seminar sessions held throughout the day.



Sue Beglinger, Education Coordinator at UW-Madison, designed and set up the display and spent time interacting with the young visitors. Tammy Schindler, Associate Lecturer at UW-Madison and Linda Milson, Program Director at Marquette University were also in attendance to share career and program information with these students.

This is a very worthwhile recruitment activity that targets a large number of high school students and is scheduled for April 5, 2006. Please mark your calendars and plan to help next year.

ORGANIZATIONAL ELECTIONS

Elections for the following leadership positions will take place at our spring, 2006, business meeting:

- President-Elect
- 2 Board of Director positions (2-year positions)
- Secretary (2-year position)
- Nominations committee member (2-year position)

Anyone who has been an ASCLS-WI member for two years or more is eligible for these positions. If you are interested in running for one of these offices, please nominate yourself by contacting Virginia Rogers (vrogers@affinityhealth.org) by February 1, 2006.

If you have not yet renewed your ASCLS and ASCLS-WI membership, please do so today. Go to the ASCLS website (www.ascls.org) and click on the Membership section; there is an online renewal form. Memberships run from August 1st, 2005 – July 31st, 2006.

Congratulations to the 2005 Student Poster Winners

Literature Review

CLS:

- 1st Place: Diana Boras (MU): Helminths as Therapy for Crohn's Disease
- 2nd Place: Bridget Boyle, Tara Reimer, Michelle Hess (UWM) Can dogs be Trained to Screen for Cancer?
- 3rd Place: Tim Endes and Paula Tank (UWM) Treatment of Lymphangioma with OK-43

CLT:

- 1st Place: Emily Stewart (WWTC) - Hereditary Hemochromatosis
- 2nd Place: Dawn Dondlinger (NWTC) - Chediak-Higashi Syndrome
- 3rd Place: Teresa Cleveland(WWTC) - Addison's Disease

Case Study

CLS:

- 1st Place: Michael Bruzas (UWL/Affinity) - Epstein-Barr Virus: The Complete Clinical Picture
- 2nd Place: Jane Metko (UWO/Affinity)- Anemia at Birth
- 3rd Place: Tiffany Devault (UWSP) - Tick-Borne Disease: A Case Study in Babesiosis
- 3rd Place (tie): Joanna Alfft (UWSP) - Using 16S Ribosome Sequencing to Identify Mycobacteria

CLT:

- 1st Place: Amanda Mommarts (NWTC) - Mycobacterium fortuitum: A Case Study in Microbiology
- 2nd Place: Debrah Moeller(NWTC) - Chronic Cold Agglutinin Disease
- 3rd Place: Jenny Lawrence (NWTC) -What About Type I Diabetes?

Research

CLS:

- 1st Place: Kathy Pejsa (MU) - The Effect of Specimen Processing on Sodium
- 2nd Place: Alison Radzun (MU) - Alzheimer's Gene
- 3rd Place: Julie Hornbach (MU) - Expanding Prostate Cancer Detection



Be sure to check out our website for updated information: www.ascls-wi.org



Please note our change:
Wisconsin Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (WISCLS)
is now
**American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Wisconsin
(ASCLS-WI)**



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