



BadgerLab Times

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

Fall, 2006

President's Message

Linda Milson



As we approach the holiday season, I would like to thank all of the members of ASCLS-WI for your continued support of our professional organization and your active participation in the local/regional chapters of our State society. I am grateful to the leadership of the organization who go that extra mile to serve on the board of directors and the various standing committees for without them, my term as president would be impossible to execute.

In the four months since the ASCLS National Meeting in Chicago, the Society has been engaged in a variety of activities that are outlined for you in the Region V director's report on page two of this newsletter. To date, the decline in membership in ASCLS as compared to 2005-06 is quite dramatic. Sue Becker, the Membership Chair for ASCLS-WI, has launched a letter-writing campaign contacting Wisconsin members who have not yet renewed for 2006-07. You can all help her in this effort. Please promote membership in our professional society and

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ASCLS Meeting Chicago, IL July 25-29, 2006

Delegate Reports

The following is a compilation of reports filed by the ASCLS-WI Delegates to the annual ASCLS meeting. Our delegates were: Linda Laatsch, Linda Milson, Sue Beglinger, Cindy Koffman, Cecelia Landin, Kelly Lucht (student), Kim Murray, John Strous, Betsy Vokac with alternates Kim Polsley and Christopher Gries (student).

There were many wonderful sessions, meetings, and networking going on during this meeting. A few of the topics or issues of particular interest are discussed below.

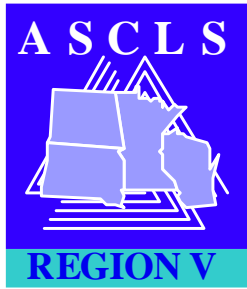
Lab Personnel Licensure: The House of Delegates adopted the position paper on licensure of laboratory personnel. The rationale for ASCLS support of licensure includes: protection of the public from inaccurate lab results; setting standards to assure quality and consistent lab testing; and defining and protecting our scope of practice. Although ASCP supports licensure, more work needs to be done to gain the support of other stakeholders.

Collaboration Task Force: ASCLS continues to meet with ASCP to explore opportunities for further collaboration. Particularly active is the task force exploring the merging of NCA and Board of Registry into a single certifying agency for clinical laboratory personnel. There are numerous issues to address with each group wishing to retain unique elements of their exam.

Scope of Practice: Clarification of CLS/MT, CLT/MLT, as well as scope of practice of other positions is needed. These would then be further used and clarified in curriculum development and job descriptions for these position levels. Surveys of current practice have been completed and focus groups will be conducted. Recommendations will be published and a 30-day comment period will be available.

Membership: This committee has divided in two to better

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Minnesota*North Dakota*South Dakota*Wisconsin

ASCLS Region V Director's Message

Lezlee Koch



“Professional Subwoofer – Hear It, See It, Feel It”

I know this has probably happened to you.... While standing outside enjoying an unusually gorgeous day for November, a decked out older car drove by on my street. Its windows were up but I could hear the loud, low, rhythmic bass tones coming from the car. As it got closer, I could visually see these same low bass tones in the wavering of the car's windows. As it got closer I could feel an "odd quivering feeling" in my chest. At that amazing moment in time I was not only "hearing sound", but also "seeing it" and "feeling it"!



ASCLS is our very own professional subwoofer. Every day ASCLS grassroots members are heard, seen and felt not only in our states but within the nation through every professional action and collaborative effort we take. The more ASCLS members we have, the louder the bass (our voice) that is heard. The more professional actions and effort put forth increases not only the volume but also the visibility of our professional value (see it) not just for ASCLS but for the clinical laboratory science professionals it represents.

The ability of our professional subwoofer is witnessed every time a local, state, regional or national meeting is held. The professional networking at these meetings "turns up the volume" and allows ASCLS and

its professionals to be heard, seen and felt by all in attendance. A wonderful example of this phenomenon was a "Laboratory Revival" 3-day fall meeting in Sioux Falls SD. Greater than 300 ASCLS members, non-members and vendor representatives from a 5-state region came together and turned up the volume for our profession. ASCLS continues to turn up our professional subwoofer through actions being taken and in accomplishing goals for our professionals. Just a few of the "bass vibrations" include:

- NCA/BOR continued discussions
- Leadership academy development
- Establishment of a new Patient Safety Task Force
- Student and Young Professional mentoring program
- Member Service and Member Recruitment Committees efforts to implement an organizational marketing plan including member and non-member on-line surveys to assure that ASCLS meets the needs and interests of clinical laboratory professionals in the nation
- Professional Doctorate Task Force continues working on finalizing a pilot program and finishing curriculum recommendations
- Committee on Professional Affairs – focusing efforts "to provide the face" of the clinical laboratory professional to the public and other health professionals
- Scope of Practice Task Force – currently completing a pilot survey on the proposed model
- Government Affairs continues to monitor Competitive Bidding and has completed many actions in relation to opposition and development of possible alternatives in collaboration with the laboratory industry
- Young Professional Committee continues with strategic actions to assure that ASCLS serves the needs and interests of our young professionals (published "ASCLS for Beginners Guide"; implemented an e-newsletter for young professionals)



IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.... if 10,000 individual ASCLS members turned up their very own

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ASCLS Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference

February 22-24, 2007: Louisville, KY

ASCLS/ASCP/CLMA Legislative Days

March 19-20, 2007: Washington, D.C.

ASCLS-WI Annual Meeting

April 18-19, 2007: Madison, WI
Middleton Marriott

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

April 22-28, 2007

ASCLS ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 17-21, 2007: SAN DIEGO, CA

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column 2*

professional subwoofer to a level that even as an individual their message could be heard, seen and felt by all co-workers, the community and the region. Now imagine that these same 10,000 professionals cranked it up at the very same moment in time! We would undoubtedly have ASCLS voice, value and vision that would "rock the nation" and every clinical laboratory professional in it! The time is now.... Turn up your ASCLS professional subwoofer by identifying yourself as an ASCLS member in your workplace and your community, share the goals and accomplishments that ASCLS is achieving for our professionals with everyone you encounter, and be involved in ASCLS at the local, state, regional and national levels. Do you know who the other ASCLS members are in your workplace and your community? If not, immediately ask your society's leadership who they are and work with them to make ASCLS and our professional effort visible in your workplace and community.

Turn up your bass! Turn up your volume! Turn up your visibility! Be an unstoppable professional subwoofer to promote our professionals, ASCLS and ASCLS Region V!

Lezlee Koch

ASCLS Region V Director

Wisconsin Society for Clinical Laboratory Science SCHOLARSHIP FUND, Inc.

Clinical Year CLS Scholarships Awarded 2006-07:

Mary Muckerheide Clinical year scholarship recipient:

Constance Rautmann Schumacher

UW-Oshkosh

Interning at Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center

Clinical Scholarship recipients:

Melissa Danielczak

UW-Stevens Point

Interning at Aspirus Wausau Hospital

Michael Gebhardt

UW-LaCrosse

Interning at Aspirus Wausau Hospital

Alisa Riebe

UW-Oshkosh

Interning at Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center

CLT Scholarship:

Brenda Hagstrom of Elmwood, WI.

Other Scholarships

The following scholarships were awarded to ASCLS-WI members at the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Chicago this past July:

Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity Scholarships

- *Ida & May Reilly Scholarship:*

Constance Ross - UW-Stevens Point

- Melissa Danielczak -- UW-Stevens Point

- Danielle Gallenberg -- UW-Stevens Point

- Christopher Gries – Marquette University

- Constance Rautmann Schumacher – UW-Oshkosh

Education & Research Fund, Inc.

Graduate Scholarship:

Cecelia Landin – Affinity Health Care

Congratulations to All of the Winners!

encourage your colleagues to join ASCLS - the *VOICE* of all clinical laboratory professionals that creates a *VISION* for the advancement of the clinical laboratory practice field and advocates the *VALUE* of the profession ensuring safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient centered health care.

The 2007 Convention Committee is hard at work to provide you with an excellent scientific program, an opportunity to make contact with numerous exhibitors and participate in a variety of activities for students and socialization with your colleagues. Mark your calendars for April 18-19 – destination Madison! Please join us on Tuesday evening, April 17th for Student Bowl competition. These young soon-to-be professionals are our future and welcome our support.

This fall, the ASCLS-WI Board of Directors initiated a plan to promote interest among the membership to attend Legislative Days in Washington on March 21-22, 2007. A self-nomination form was distributed through the local chapter presidents. If you did not receive the information and are interested in meeting our legislators to advocate for our profession, please contact me at Linda.Milson@Marquette.edu. We hope to have good representation from our students as well.

The Board also voted to post the newly revised ASCLS-WI Standard Operating Procedure on the website. Approved minutes from Board meetings may be obtained by contacting any Board member for copies. Their contact information can be found either on the website or the leadership roster included in this issue of BadgerLab Times.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in ASCLS-WI, please contact me. You could be a speaker for a CE offering, a judge for Student Bowl competition or a candidate for the open positions listed in the **ELECTIONS** on page five. I welcome your participation in our State society.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you the joys and blessings of this holiday season.

Linda Milson
ASCLS-WI President 2006-07

serve the needs of members. Member services will focus on retention of current members and re-engagement of lapsed members. Member Recruitment will design programs to identify and enroll new members.

Leadership Academy: This is a new initiative. The purpose is to prepare members for leadership roles in ASCLS (and in the workplace) using a structured program. Hopefully, the first group will begin the year-long program next year at annual meeting.

Doctoral Degree: Partnerships with 3 or 4 universities are being explored to pilot a possible professional doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Science.

Political Action Committee (PAC): All members are urged to consider a PAC donation on an annual basis. Our Legislative Consultant lobbies on Capitol Hill on behalf of our profession. Current issues are Medicare Part B Competitive Bidding (demonstration projects are going forward) and Medically Unbelievable Edits (will restrict the number of tests per day that will be reimbursed).

ASCLS Today: A new feature in this publication will be the introduction of short topics. If anyone from ASCLS-WI wants help submitting an article or case study, contact Cindy Koffman at cindyko@rmcnet.org.

P.A.C.E.: This was the first annual meeting where scanners were used to record attendance. Although there were a few glitches, ASCLS plans to move forward with their plans to make the PACE process paperless and to provide quality programs.

Labs Are Vital: Abbott Diagnostics introduced their "Labs Are Vital" initiative in which they hope to raise public awareness of the shortages of qualified laboratory personnel. Life-size posters of laboratorians were found on bus shelters around Chicago and will go on tour for display in large cities wherever health care meetings are held this year. Abbott is also supporting educational facilities by providing one million dollars in an instrument and reagent donation program. Be sure to check out Abbott's new program at www.labsarevital.com.



Quality Care from Quality Professionals

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week | 2007

April 22 – 28, 2007

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.



Silent Auction

The Wisconsin Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (WISCLS) Scholarship fund Inc. will be sponsoring a silent auction during the Spring Meeting, April 18-19th. The profits for the silent auction will be used to fund numerous scholarships including:

- 1 four-year scholarship for a high school senior paying \$500 per semester for a total of 8 semesters.
- 1 CLT/MLT scholarship for \$500.
- 3 clinical year scholarships for \$1000 each.
- 1 post grad scholarship for \$1000.

Wouldn't you like to help make these happen?

We're asking each WISCLS branch to donate at least one auction item. Of course we'd love donations from any individual that would like to donate, too. Hand made items, items used in the lab or personal items would be great. Please leave donated items at the registration table.

Thanks for being a part of the future!

Judy Wiltgen

WISCLS Scholarship Fund, Inc., Chairman
judyeau@yahoo.com



Elections

Elections for the following leadership positions will take place at our spring, 2007, business meeting:

- President-Elect
- 2 Board of Director positions (2-year positions)
- Treasurer (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 Linda Laatsch (414-288-3401 or Linda.Laatsch@marquette.edu) by February 15, 2007.

ASCLS Annual Meeting Pictures

If you wish to view photographs from the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Chicago, go to www.ascls.org/conferences/index.asp. Click on "2006 Annual Meeting" – photos are under "Awards Photo Gallery" and "Party Photo Gallery."

Renew Your Membership in ASCLS!

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, 2006 – July 31st, 2007.



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



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