



# BadgerLab Times

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

Fall, 2011

## President's Message

Jeannette Putnam



### "Lab Pride"

Annie Dillard once wrote, "How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives." Whether we like it or not, many of us spend most of our days at work. For the lucky few who happen to work in the field of medical laboratory science, our days are spent helping patients and the clinicians who treat them. Those who teach medical laboratory science have the honor of preparing the next generation of laboratory professionals to excel in their field. Others who manage laboratories or perform research are also playing a vital role in the field of clinical science. All in all, our days (and lives) are spent in the service of others. Everyone needs quality health care, and they rely on us to provide it.

The services we provide are behind-the-scenes, so we tend to spend our days within the four walls of the laboratory. As a result, lab professionals tend to be neither seen nor heard by the other members of the health care team. That makes us no less important, as every test result has our fingerprint on it. Behind each result is a highly skilled medical laboratory

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## ASCLS Meeting Atlanta, GA July 26-30, 2011

### Summary of Delegate Reports

*Delegates: John Strous, April Harkins, Jeannette Putnam, Sue Becker, Cindy Koffman, Kimberly Murray, Olivia Miu, Steve Musiol.*

*These are summary reports. Please see <http://www.ascls-wi.org/annual-meeting/delegate-reports> for complete delegate reports.*

**Keynote:** We heard an inspiring keynote given by two doctors who have formed a cross-professional group at the CDC. The Clinical Laboratory Integration into Healthcare Collaborative is dedicated to increasing the influence of clinical laboratory expertise on physicians' decision-making. It sounds very promising, establishing algorithms for test-ordering procedures and result interpretation. By initiating a dialogue between doctors, nurses, and the laboratory, we will raise our profile and influence with the health care team.

**Product Development Committee:** The PDC is responsible for recruiting speakers and providing support to them to create online CE courses which laboratorians can use for PACE credit. PDC committee members are going to evaluate the survey results from a 2010 survey conducted to identify appropriate educational topics for development by ASCLS. There is now a CD available on emerging pathogens by Marcia Fermani. There is also a new certificate program that is being developed with Westgard on quality control. Another plan is to produce at least 2 online courses for MediaLab. This year the PDC must produce 4 online courses by December 2011 since the projects from last year fell through.

**Leadership Development Committee:** LDC is responsible for identifying members who are potential leaders in the ASCLS organization. A concern was raised of lack of involvement from local societies. Also stressed were succession plans and the importance of the Keys to the Future award winners. The committee will propose a session for the 2012 meeting on "how to mentor/how to let go."

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **ASCLS Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference (CLEC)**

**February 23-25, 2012: Salt Lake City, UT**

### **ASCLS Legislative Days**

**March 19-20, 2012: Washington, D.C.**

### **ASCLS-WI Annual Meeting**

**April 11-12, 2012: LaCrosse, WI (April 10<sup>th</sup> – Student Bowl)**

### **National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week**

**April 22-28, 2012**

### **ASCLS Annual Meeting**

**July 17-21, 2012: Los Angeles, CA**

*ASCLS Meeting/Delegate Reports-Continued from page 1 column 2*

**Promotion of the Profession Committee:** PPC committee promotes the value of the profession to the community and to other health care professionals. PPC provides an article to the online version of Advance titled ASCLS Voice. This task is headed by Linda Laatsch of ASCLS-WI. Suggestions were solicited for topics for 2012 articles, and the committee welcomes any ideas that members may have (contact [linda.laatsch@marquette.edu](mailto:linda.laatsch@marquette.edu)). The PPC also gives support to NMLPW planning. PPC also works to publish articles on promoting the profession in newspapers and PSA on TV. This was addressed this year in our ASCLS annual meeting program by Matthew Patton from Advance. PPC also provides material that can be used to educate the public on laboratory educational topics. Currently there are two PowerPoint's available on the website on "Preparing for a Lab Test: and "What You Don't Know Can Hurt You." PPC has been extremely successful the past two years (2010 Anaheim and so far 2011 Atlanta) with fundraising for charities in convention host cities. There have been phone calls made to LA and discussions will continue on which charity the ASCLS membership will support in 2012. The other suggestion that came out of the meeting is providing awards to state society that raise the most funds at the annual meeting charity event. The PPC would like to rewrite these guidelines.

**Awards Committee:** The Awards committee presented 644 awards and \$48,100 in scholarships.

**Microbiology Scientific Assembly:** With the implementation of the new website the current SA list serves will gradually be replaced by groups. All members are

encouraged to go to the ASCLS website and review your profile making sure that you are included in the SA groups from which you want to receive information. Cindy Koffman will be writing a case study for ASCLS Today in spring of 2012. Additional case studies are needed for a continuing education program that ASCLS offers for PACE credit (Clinical Laboratory Investigations). If your case is accepted you will receive \$100. Author submission guidelines are available at [www.ascls.org/?page=CLI](http://www.ascls.org/?page=CLI).

**PAC & Government Affairs:** Discussion centered on effects of possible health care referendums on the laboratory. Both committees stressed that Medicare cuts will be made. The important point we as an organization would like to express is if a laboratory copayment is instituted we would like the ability to collect the copayment up front and the ability to participate in a negotiated rule making process in which we can provide our expertise in updating the fee schedule. Many of the committee members agree that 4% cut that other organizations propose will not guarantee that a copayment will not later be instituted.

**BOC/NAACLS Update:** MLT/MLS program numbers seem stable.

**Professionals Issues Updates:** The treasurer's report showed that 2011 revenues were a bit down and expenses were up a bit, but overall we seem to be doing okay. Elissa Passiment reported on the ASCLS office reorganization and our new relationship with SmithBucklin (<http://www.smithbucklin.com/>). They are an association management firm and will provide broad support for our organization.

**Bylaws Committee:** There is a new mandate that all states include a New Professional in their delegation.

**Membership Services & Recruitment:** The Membership Committee is now divided into two main committees – Membership Services and Membership Recruitment. It was divided to enable a more efficient use of resources and time. With the revisions to the ASCLS web page there is no longer a code necessary to access membership rosters, and it is possible to update your profile to get notified of a new member in your state. In addition, the new website has leadership resources and recruitment materials including: What to say to those who ask, "Why?"; Keep in touch graduation card; Membership Matters List serv; Connections (Facebook, Linked In, Twitter). The membership charge is to increase professional members by 10%, increase student members by 5%, and increase first year professionals.

**House of Delegates:** There were 3 major actions taken: The House approved the Partnership for Patients document (Patient Safety); approved the CASA task force Executive Summary & Recommendation; passed the new ASCLS Mission/Vision Statement. All documents can be found in their entirety at <http://www.ascls.org/?page=HOD>. Look

*ASCLS Meeting/Delegate Reports-Continued on page 5 column 1*



## Elections

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

- President – Elect
- Secretary
- Board of Directors Member – 2-3 positions
- Nominations Committee – 1 position

*Duties and Responsibilities* for these positions can be found in the Bylaws located on [www.ascls-wi.org](http://www.ascls-wi.org) If you need additional information or wish to nominate someone, please contact the Chair of the Nominations Committee, John Strous, at

[strou@uwosh.edu](mailto:strou@uwosh.edu)

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scientist who has been trusted to ensure its accuracy and precision. In addition, laboratory professionals are constantly striving to be on the leading edge of science and technology. The laboratory is a treasure trove of clinical knowledge and expertise, but in many cases it remains a simple “black box” where samples go in and numbers come out.

ASCLS and other laboratory organizations are working hard to put an end to our behind-the-scenes anonymity. In July at the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Atlanta, things kicked off with a rousing keynote address entitled “Right Diagnosis, Right Laboratory Tests, Right on Time.” It was given by two doctors who have formed a cross-professional group at the CDC. The Clinical Laboratory Integration into Healthcare Collaborative is dedicated to increasing the influence of the clinical laboratory on physicians’ decision-making. By developing methods for improving test selection and result interpretation, it aims to reduce diagnostic errors and improve patient outcomes. It’s easy to see how laboratory expertise can help to achieve these goals! The fact that the CDC is spearheading this effort speaks volumes about how the influence of the laboratory is changing. By initiating a dialogue between doctors, nurses, and the laboratory, we

are raising awareness of our vital role within the health care team. Consequently, we can no longer remain inside the “black box.”

As we transition to a more vocal and visible role in health care, the laboratory must continue to achieve high levels of proficiency and professionalism. An important step in doing this is to join ASCLS, the premier organization for medical laboratory science. ASCLS provides many opportunities to develop our knowledge base. It offers quality continuing education at reduced rates, as well as a subscription to the Clinical Laboratory Science journal. In addition, ASCLS actively lobbies Congress, speaking out for our legislative interests with a unified and well-informed voice. It encourages us to be leaders in our laboratories and local communities. For me, however, the most important value of ASCLS is the pride it fosters in the medical laboratory science profession.

Speaking of which, ASCLS-Wisconsin has a lot to be proud of! We are fortunate to live in a state with such an active professional society. We have the third largest membership in the country. We consistently participate in national ASCLS events such as the Annual Meeting, House of Delegates, and Legislative Symposium. Our state convention is always well attended, with a Student Bowl and Student Poster Competition that expand each year!

The best part is that you can be a part of ASCLS in whatever way you’d like. Our valued members have the opportunity to make their voices heard, contribute editorials, or submit scientific research articles to publications like BadgerLab Times and ASCLS Today. In addition, you can become a leader at the local, state, or national level. If you like to travel, you can serve as a delegate to national events. Ever since I became more actively involved with ASCLS, I have been amazed and encouraged by the enthusiasm within the state and national society. Participating in ASCLS has made me a better laboratory scientist, more fulfilled by my career and excited about my vital role in the health care team. Sure, I may still look forward to Friday afternoon, but I am deeply proud of how I spend my days.

I look forward to serving as ASCLS-WI President for the 2011-2012 year. So far, it has been a true experience of “professional revitalization.” I hope we all continue to work together and make ASCLS-WI even better. I’ll see you in LaCrosse for the 2012 State Convention!

*Jeannette Putnam,*

*ASCLS-WI President 2011-12*

### 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](http://www.ascls.org)) and click on “Log in” under “Renew Your Membership.” There is an online renewal form. Memberships run from August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011– July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012*



**Be sure to check out our website for updated information:**

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

2011 ASCLS-WI Annual Meeting  
**Laboratory Science**  
**Solving the Puzzles of Life**

April 11 - 12, 2012  
(Student Bowl: April 10<sup>th</sup>)

The LaCrosse Convention Center  
LaCrosse, WI

- ◆ Over 35 Scientific & Educational Sessions
- ◆ Silent Auction & Student Poster Display
  - ◆ Spectacular Vendor Exhibition
- ◆ Door prizes, Luncheons, Receptions, & Awards

For more information contact

[joy@classicevents.net](mailto:joy@classicevents.net)



**Congratulations to the following ASCLS-WI members who were recognized at the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Atlanta this past July:**

Beckman Coulter Student Travel Grant Recipient:  
*Bridget Nelson, Marquette University*

Member of the Year Nominee: *Susan Stalewski, UW Milwaukee*

### BadgerLab Times

#### Editorial Staff

Copy Editor – Linda Laatsch  
Layout Editor – Mark Maticcek

#### Mailing Address:

ASCLS-WI  
4852 N. Sheffield Ave.  
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

#### Article Submission

Articles for BadgerLab Times should be submitted in Microsoft Word or .pdf format and sent electronically to

[linda.laatsch@marquette.edu](mailto:linda.laatsch@marquette.edu).

All articles published represent the opinions of the authors and do not reflect the official policy of ASCLS-WI or the authors' institutions unless specified.

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### Wisconsin Society for Clinical Laboratory Science SCHOLARSHIP FUND, Inc.

Congratulations to our Clinical Year CLS  
Scholarship Award Winners for 2011-12:

**Mary Muckerheide Clinical Year Scholarship recipient:**

*Angela Yost, UW Milwaukee*

**Ron Laessig Clinical Year Scholarship recipient:**

*Devon Crawford, UW Madison*

**Other Clinical Year Scholarship recipients:**

*Tamara Bruss, UW Oshkosh*

*Amber Koenigs, Marquette*

*Hailey Thimming, UW Oshkosh*

Also, congratulations to Molly Grenchik who is this year's winner of the 4-year Scholarship. Molly is a freshman in the CLS program at Marquette University.

Heartfelt thanks go out from the Scholarship Fund Board of Directors to **Stavri Joseph** for his MANY, MANY years of service on the Board. Stavri is one of the founding members of the Scholarship Fund, and he has championed our society's efforts to support students pursuing laboratory medicine as a career. Stavri is moving to Seattle – we will miss him dearly!!!

**Post-Grad Scholarship:** Are you an ASCLS-WI member who attends graduate school in a field directly related to CLS? Consider applying for the Weisberg Post-Graduate Scholarship. For further information, contact Stacy Walz at [sewalz.cls@gmail.com](mailto:sewalz.cls@gmail.com). Applications are due December 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **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 2011 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 2012 Silent Auction. Questions?? Contact Linda Laatsch at [linda.laatsch@marquette.edu](mailto:linda.laatsch@marquette.edu).

under “House 4” for the Patient Safety document and under “House 6” for the CLMA ASCLS Task Force and Futures—ASCLS Beliefs documents. Each document is summarized below:

**Partnership for Patients:** The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) strongly supports the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' recently announced public-private “Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs” initiative. ASCLS shares the two primary goals of the Partnership: to keep hospital patients from getting sicker and to help patients heal without complication. ASCLS's mission includes enhancing quality standards and patient safety by advocating the value and the role of the clinical laboratory professional in ensuring safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient centered health care.

**ASCLS Beliefs, Values, and Mission:** The new ASCLS Mission Statement is: The mission of ASCLS is to make a positive impact in health care through leadership that will assure excellence in the practice of laboratory medicine. This mission is based on beliefs and core values.

**ASCLS-CLMA Strategic Alliance (CASA):** In February 2011 the Boards of Directors of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and the Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA) agreed to engage in official discussions to ascertain the feasibility of creating a combined organization that would be stronger than each individual organization. Each Board appointed five members to participate in a Task Force named The CLMA-ASCLS Strategic Alliance (CASA). The representatives are: Marcia Armstrong, Scott Aikey, J.R. Constance, Judy Davis, and Glenda Price from ASCLS along with Rodney Forsman, Paul Labbe, Judy Lien, Carla Orner, and Sarina Rodrigues from CLMA. In addition to the volunteer members, Elissa Passiment, Executive Vice President for ASCLS, participated in the meetings which were facilitated by Kevin Baliozian of SmithBucklin.

The charge to the Task Force was to produce a report for the governing boards of both organizations which would outline the parameters of or framework for their coming together to consolidate their resources and talents. Should the organizations agree that bringing the strengths of the two independent associations together would create an even stronger organization, an implementation and transition plan would be developed outside of the scope of CASA.

ASCLS and CLMA share a vision that the combined organization will be the premier resource for medical laboratory professionals and laboratory leadership to maintain and enhance their knowledge of medical laboratory science and best practices. Its mission will be to promote the practice of excellence in medical laboratory medicine through education, advocacy, and networking.

The combined organization would remain international in scope, with a national governing board, and have local representation. There would be significant opportunities for member engagement via committees, task forces, volunteer involvement and advocacy. Membership would be open to: scientific and technical personnel; laboratory managers and administrators; students; educators; and all those who support medical laboratories and medical laboratory professionals.

The mission and goals of the new combined organization would also include publications such as a peer-reviewed journal, regularly scheduled newsletter, weekly e-newsletters, the Body of Knowledge for Clinical Laboratory Professionals and the Body of Knowledge for Medical Laboratory Management. It would also be the intent to convene a general annual meeting and specialty meetings such as a Legislative Symposium, a Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference, a Clinical Laboratory Administrators and Managers Meeting, and Chapter Constituent Society and Regional Meetings with ample opportunities for vendor exhibits.

The ASCLS House of Delegates approved the concept of a combined organization and the CASA Task Force is moving forward with planning for implementation and transition.



In Memoriam - Louis Romuald Jr.  
1934-2011

*Louis Romuald, Jr. of Fond du Lac passed away on September 16<sup>th</sup>. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Marilyn, and 4 sons: David (Kristi), Michael (Luanne), Christopher, and Thomas (Mary). He is further survived by 9 grandchildren and numerous other relatives and friends.*

*Until his retirement, Louis was employed at St. Agnes Hospital and at Consultant's Laboratories as a medical technologist, technical director, and supervisor. He served as President of the Wisconsin Association for Medical Technology from 1967-68 and was an Advisory Council Member for the American Society for Medical Technology.*

*A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on September 20<sup>th</sup> in Fond du Lac.*

*Members of ASCLS-WI are grateful for Louis' service to our profession and professional organization and we wish blessings on his soul.*

## Update Your Contact Information

Please take a few minutes to update your contact information for ASCLS. You are the only one who can make these corrections; ASCLS relies on its members to update their membership profile on the web. How do you do this?

**Go to the ASCLS website ([www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org))**: On the right side of the page, you can sign in directly with your username and password. Your username is your e-mail address – you can get a password if you don't already have one. After logging in, you will see the **My Profile** box on the right side of your page. Click on **Manage Profile**. This will take you to your personal information page where you can edit your contact information.



ASCLS-WI  
4852 N. Sheffield Ave.  
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

