

THE FILTER

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Nebraska
www.ascls-ne.org

ASCLS-NE President's Page

Submitted By Linsey Donner, MPH, CPH, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}

ASCLS-NE has been up to many exciting things since the last Filter publication. For starters, we held a Leadership Board Meeting and Retreat on August 18th, 2012. This meeting was productive and has led to the development of new committees within ASCLS-NE including a Membership Committee, Fundraising Committee, Leadership Development Committee, and the Spring Meeting Social Planning Committee. Each committee is dedicated to serving the laboratory professionals in Nebraska and is working on projects and events to benefit ASCLS-NE members. If you are interested in becoming involved with ASCLS-NE becoming a committee member is a great place to start. You can be involved with the society without a huge time commitment and learn more about ASCLS! If you are interested in becoming involved please contact me at ASCLS-NEpresident@hotmail.com and we will find the perfect place for you to contribute!

November 10-11th, 2012 was the annual Region VI Fall Council Meeting. To represent ASCLS-NE Chelsea Dockins-Reischl, President-Elect; Marnie Imhoff, Treasurer; Jasmine Clarke, Student Forum President; David Redfern, Region VI Student Forum Chair; and me. The meeting was both educational and productive. The topics of discussion were ASCLS membership, development of ASCLS leadership, website transition for the National society, and reports given by each state located within the region (Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska). In addition the Quad State Spring Meeting, the Great Plains Regional Laboratory Expo, planning committee met to work on educational sessions and events to be held April 3 - 5th, 2012.

ASCLS-NE is a society dedicated to its members and laboratory professionals throughout Nebraska. We are advocates for the laboratory and those who work within the laboratory. Without active members involved in leadership this would not be possible. Each contribution no matter how big or small the active members donate is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you are interested in becoming involved within ASCLS-NE, have any questions, comments, or suggestions feel free to contact me anytime at ASCLS-NEpresident@hotmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

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"ASCLS-NE is a society dedicated to its members and laboratory professionals throughout Nebraska. We are advocates for the laboratory and those who work within the laboratory."

Clinical Laboratory Coalition Committed to Ensuring Access to Quality Laboratory Services

Submitted by Roxanne Alter

The Honorable John Boehner
U.S. House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
U.S. House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor
U.S. House of Representatives
303 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Clyburn
U.S. House of Representatives
2135 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor, Majority Whip McCarthy, Minority Leader Pelosi, Minority Whip Hoyer and Assistant Minority Leader Clyburn:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations—representing America’s community, regional, hospital-based, and national clinical laboratories; the laboratory professionals who provide care for the Medicare patients we serve; and diagnostic manufacturers—we ask that you protect access to Medicare Part B clinical laboratory services as you work to address end of year fiscal matters, including sequestration and the pending Medicare SGR cuts to physicians. We specifically urge you to oppose any additional reductions in the Medicare Part B Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule, which was cut by Congress earlier this year. Further reductions to the fee schedule—whether through a direct cut or the imposition of new laboratory cost sharing requirements—gravely threaten laboratory providers’ability to serve their communities and specifically meet the needs of the Medicare population.

Clinical laboratory testing represents approximately 1.6 percent of all Medicare spending, yet it has been subject to significant freezes in payments and cuts over the last two decades— especially in the past three years. These cuts include a cumulative 20 percent reduction implemented through the Affordable Care Act; another 2 percent cut to the laboratory fee schedule as a result of the short term SGR deal passed in February of this year (representing 15 percent of the offset to pay for the SGR deal); and another 2 percent cut to Medicare laboratory services through sequestration.

In some clinical laboratories, especially those serving rural communities or nursing home populations, 60 percent or more of their patient-base consists of Medicare beneficiaries. Any additional cuts cannot be absorbed without adversely impacting patient care. Cuts to clinical laboratories will threaten seniors’ access to tests needed for physicians to manage chronic health conditions. Independent clinical laboratories will be forced to make drastic economic decisions to ensure their viability in a difficult market.

Clinical Laboratory Coalition continued from page 2

As demonstrated in a recent survey conducted by the George Washington University, a significant number of small and mid-size independent clinical laboratories operate on very low margins, with profit margins that do not exceed 3 percent. Additional cuts are not an option if these laboratories are to grow or even retain their ability to serve Medicare beneficiaries. For other laboratories, additional cuts to laboratory reimbursement will likely lead to even further workforce reductions, threatening both economic recovery and patient care.

A 2000 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report on Medicare laboratory payment policy recommended against beneficiary cost sharing, asserting that the cost for laboratories to collect a co pay or coinsurance will often exceed the amount of the actual cost sharing amount. Additionally, in 2011, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) did not include laboratory coinsurance or co-pays in the savings options presented to Congress. In its reports to Congress, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MEDPAC) also did not include any recommendation for cost sharing on laboratory services.

Our organizations respectfully request that you work to protect access to clinical laboratory services for Medicare beneficiaries and oppose further reductions in the laboratory fee schedule and the implementation of cost sharing for Medicare Part B clinical laboratory services. Both issues affect our ability to provide necessary services that drive over 70 percent of medical decision making. Laboratories are an integral partner in your ultimate effort to improve care delivery and reduce health care costs, with lab tests serving as the foundation for the diagnosis and clinical management of conditions like heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. We want to work with you to achieve your goals without compromising the quality and availability of care Medicare beneficiaries deserve.

If you have any questions, or if we can provide additional information, please contact Julie Allen with the Clinical Laboratory Coalition (202.230.5126 or julie.allen@dbr.com), or any of the organizations represented below.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Acupath Laboratories, Inc.
AdvaMedDx
Aegis Sciences Corporation
Agendia Inc.
American Association of Bioanalysts
American Association for Clinical Chemistry
American Clinical Laboratory Association
American Esoterics Laboratories
American Medical Technologists
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
Atlantic Diagnostic Laboratories
BD
Biomedical Laboratories
Brookside Clinical Laboratory, Inc.
CBLPath, Inc.
Central Coast Pathology Laboratory
Cephaid
Citrano Medical Laboratories, Inc.
Clinical Laboratories of Hawaii, LLP
Clinical Laboratory Management Association
Clinical Pathology Laboratories, Inc.
Clinical Pathology Laboratories Mid Atlantic
Clinical Pathology Laboratories Southeast
Diagnostic Laboratory Medicine
Eastside Clinical Laboratory, Inc.

Greenwood Medical Laboratory, Inc.
Health Diagnostic Laboratory, Inc.
Interpath Laboratory, Inc.
Laboratory Partners Inc.
MedLab Inc.
Modern Diagnostic Laboratory, Inc.
National Independent Laboratory Association
North Coast Clinical Laboratory, Inc.
Novartis
Ortho Clinical Diagnostics
Pathology Laboratories, Inc.
Physician's Automated Laboratory, Inc.
Piedmont Joint Venture Laboratory, Inc.
ReproSource, Inc.
Rheumatology Diagnostics Laboratory, Inc.
Roche Diagnostics Corporation
Shiel Medical Laboratory
Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics
Sonic Healthcare USA, Inc.
Southwestern Medical Laboratory, Inc
Sunrise Medical Laboratories, Inc
TriCore Reference Laboratories
Western Health Sciences



Leadership Development

Submitted by Tracey Vrba

Although 2013 is just upon us, we are already looking forward to our 2013–2014 leadership team!! If you are interested in any of the following positions, please contact me (tracey_vrba@hotmail.com) for more information!

The following positions are elected board positions. Qualifications include a minimum of one year of active leadership as a committee chair or committee member within ASCLS–NE:

- President–Elect
- Secretary
- Junior Board Member

The Leadership Development Committee is hard at work on the ASCLS–NE Leadership Handbook. Our goal is to have the handbook ready for ASCLS–NE Board review by March 1, 2013. During the 2013 spring board meeting, the board will have the opportunity to vote on putting the handbook to use. The vote will also put into place new committee chairs. Please stay tuned for more information or contact me if you are interested in society fundraising, professional recruitment, professional promotion, event development, or any current committee as listed at <http://www.ascls-ne.org/leadership.html>

P.A.C.E Credit Available

Submitted by Shana Jensen



Professional Acknowledgement for Continuing Education
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
1861 International Ave., Suite 200
Tysons Corner, VA 22102

ASCLS will be sponsoring PACE credit for "Sharing the Vision" April 19–20, 2013. The conference will serve to facilitate communication among faculty preceptors, leaders and supporters of student–run clinics for underserved populations. The event will be on UNMC campus consisting of "all teach--all learn" sessions as well as traditional educational formats, i.e. presentations and posters. We are hoping to include best practices, problem solving, and communicating research findings. Information can be found at http://www.unmc.edu/cce/sharing_conf.htm or by contacting Ricki Otten uotten@unmc.edu.

Anyone having presentations or ideas for future PACE events is welcome to contact shana_jensen@hotmail.com to discuss opportunities for ASCLS–NE to serve our members with continuing education credits.

Great Plains Leadership Development Day

Submitted by Chelsea Dockins Reischl

The Spring Meeting Planning Committee is excited to announce that during the Quad State Spring Meeting this coming April 2013 we will also offer a leadership development day. This day will be held Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center in La Vista, NE.

The Great Plains Leadership Development Day is designed to prepare ASCLS members for current and future leadership roles in the organization

by providing a structured program of study of critical leadership topics. Another bonus: PACE continuing education credits will be awarded for each session completed!

"It is very important to our society to continually identify members with potential to become leaders in ASCLS and invest in their growth and development."

As an ASCLS member and current leader, it is very important to our society to continually identify members with potential to become leaders in ASCLS and invest in their growth and development. Our goals are to provide these high-potential leaders with skill required to step into leadership positions within ASCLS, energize and grow ASCLS through strong leadership at all levels of the organization, and increase the future leaders' knowledge of ASCLS.

**Candidates must be a current ASCLS member.

Please contact Chelsea at cdockinsmgm@aol.com if you are interested in taking part.



ASCLS-NE students seeking your input!!!

The students of the Lincoln MLT Program and UNMC MLS Program are asking YOU for fund-raising ideas...would you like to purchase a scrub top, lanyard, tote bag, water bottle, or other item to support the students this year?

Please forward any suggestions or ideas to:

studentforum@ascls-ne.org

*Jasmine Clarke, ASCLS-NE Student Forum President
David Redfern, ASCLS Region VI Student Forum Chair*

Student Forum

Submitted by Ashley Collins

This year's ASCLS-NE Student Forum leadership consists of students from Methodist College, the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), and Southeast Community College (SCC). The students voted on a Nebraska Student Forum President and a Region VI Student Forum President.



Jasmine Clarke is serving as the ASCLS-NE Student Forum President. She's from Alliance, NE and is currently a CLS student at UNMC completing her clinical rotations in Scottsbluff, NE. David Redfern is serving as the ASCLS Region VI Student Forum President. He's from Colorado Springs, CO and is currently a second-year MLT student at SCC. When asked what was most liked about the society so far, Jasmine and David both mentioned networking. They like how easy it is to get in contact with the right people to help as well as the opportunity it provides to learn about all the career options within the laboratory field.

The first fundraiser of the year was a great success! The students raffled off Husker football tickets for the Nebraska versus Michigan game on October 27. Mary Bystrom was the winner for the Omaha area and Chris Pape was the winner for the Lincoln area. Each won a pair of tickets and a gift card to either Brewsky's or Brix & Stone. Congratulations to you both! Over \$1500 was raised through ticket sales.

I want to recognize Jasmine for participating even though she's in western Nebraska and the SCC students for their new record high, great job! Thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket. The funds will be used to help send students to the Quad State Meeting in April and the National Meeting in August, as well as plan a student forum social.

STUDENTS RENEWING AS FYP

Currently students who want to renew as First Year Professionals cannot do so online. Either call the office with your credit card information, 571-748-3770, or fax/mail your paper renewal form to the national office. FYP dues are \$45 plus your state dues. You can visit www.ascls.org and click on Join ASCLS for the renewal form.

Yearly Treasurer's Report
Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements, 1 July 2012 – 30 Oct 2012
Submitted by Marnie Imhoff, MBA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

Money Market Balance 30 June 2012	\$ 16,269.74	
Cash Receipts		
Money Market Interest Income	\$ 5.52	
ASCLS Membership	<u>\$ 275.00</u>	
Total Money Market Cash Receipts	\$ 280.52	
Disbursements		
Transfers to checking account	<u>\$ 82.00</u>	
Total Money Market Disbursements	\$ 82.00	
Money Market Account Balance 31 October 2012		\$ 16,468.26

Checking Account Balance – 1 July 2012	\$ 773.51	
Cash Receipts		
Spring Meeting 2012	\$12,189.89	
Transfers from Money Market	<u>\$ 82.00</u>	
Total Checking Account Cash Receipts	\$12,271.89	
Disbursements		
ASCLS National Meeting Attendance July 2012	\$ 5,225.56	
Website Maintenance	\$ 41.94	
Postage Stamps	\$ 9.00	
ASCLS-NE Board Meeting	\$ 81.70	
Legal Counsel	\$ 50.00	
Region VI Assessment	\$ 1,300.00	
Treasurer and President Bonding	<u>\$ 99.00</u>	
Total Checking Account Disbursements	\$ 6,807.20	
Checking Account Balance 31 October 2012		\$6,238.20

ASCLS-NE SUMMARY OF ASSETS:

Money Market Balance 31 October 2012	\$ 16,468.26
Checking Account Balance 31 October 2012	\$ 6,238.20
Scholarship CD Balance 31 October 2012	\$ 14,089.35
Legislative CD Balance 31 October 2012	\$ 5,000.00
Savings CD Balance 31 October 2012	<u>\$ 11,117.86</u>
ASCLS-NE TOTAL ASSETS 31 October 2012	\$ 52,913.67

Spotlight on: Bellevue Medical Center

- ***What is the Name of Your Laboratory?***

Bellevue Medical Center Lab

- ***Is Your Lab Accredited?***

Our lab is accredited by CAP

- ***How Many Employees Work in your Laboratory?***

6 Full-Time Medical Technologists, 1 Part-Time Medical Technologist, 2 Casual Medical Technologists, 1 Traveling Medical Technologist, 8 Diagnostic Care Techs (AKA Phlebotomist/EKG Techs), 1 Ancillary Testing Coordinator, 1 Lead Medical Laboratory Specialist, 1 Manager, 1 Shared Pathologist—A grand total of 22 employees!!

- ***How Many Combined Years of Experience do Your Employees Have?***

We only have a little over 60 years of experience in the lab on the Med Tech side. We are a very young and very energetic lab!

- ***What kinds of Patients Do you Serve?***

Right now, our patient population is mainly inpatients. We have a lot of babies and do a lot of outpatient surgeries. Our emergency room is getting busier by the day since we are the first hospital for a large rural area. Eventually, we hope to handle more outpatient clinics as well.

- ***How Many Tests Do You Do in a Year?***

We perform about 180,000 test per year, and each year that number keeps climbing!

- ***Tell me about your lab's most rewarding or satisfying experience or your proudest moment***

Our lab has come a long way in the last 4 years. We are a new hospital and have had many changes and challenges to get to this point. From the day we moved in, when we were the only employees in the building alongside the construction workers, when we wore hard hats and boots in to start validations and had to yell over the sound of saws and hammers. We made it through the first CAP inspections after starting from scratch. Opening day when we all sat and waited for the first tube in the tube station to drop. We have gone through turnover in staff and management and lots of training of new employees. Maintaining a work environment that we like to come to through all of that is by far our proudest achievement

- ***What is the most Unique Test you Perform?***

We run a full range core lab. Chemistry, Coag, Hemo, Blood Bank, Urinalysis, some Micro and manual testing. I wouldn't call most of our testing unique, but a tech may perform it all in a single shift (and usually does) which gives us our excitement and variety.

- ***What is the Best Thing about Working in Your Lab?***

The best thing about working in our lab is the staff. We have such an amazing and energetic crew. The work environment could rival any lab around

- ***Has Anyone in your Lab Been Recognized for Doing Great Work?***

We have several celebrities in our lab. Brian Perry, diagnostic care tech, has been recognized several times by the organization for outstanding patient care. We recognize each other on our "Lab Stars" board whenever we see a fellow coworker being outstanding. Our night Med Tech, Iona Rone, was also featured in the hospital news letter after singing "The National Anthem" last summer at the 2012 College World Series game

- ***What Does Your Lab Team do for Fun?***

Our lab tries to plan lab outings whenever possible—from going out to eat during the week, to a "Biggest Loser" competition, to supporting our coworkers when they have a personal achievement outside of work. Last summer, a group from the lab competed in the Warrior Dash, Cooperate Cup, Market to Market Relay and Papillion Half Marathon. This year we have signed up for the Warrior Dash again, The Ugly Sweater Run and are trying to get together a lab indoor volleyball team. We have noticed peer pressure and exercise seem to be the key to team building and healthy staff, but don't get me wrong we all enjoy food days and calorie filled snacks.

Spotlight on: Bellevue Medical Center Continued...

- ***Does your Lab have a Window?***

Our lab does not have a window. We are located on the "Garden Level" (aka the basement) but can see a nice green garden just through a set of double doors.

- ***Do you Have a Lab Mascot?***

I guess our lab mascot would have to be the lab "Gremlin". He has graced our lab since the beginning and decorated any analyzer that may be misbehaving. He was also on our lab team shirts for the Warrior Dash last year.



- ***What is One Goal your Lab is Working on This Year?***

Our goal this year is to get our new analyzers validated and ready to go! We are switching out all of the main analyzers after the new year and are ready to take on the new challenge!

- ***What is your Contact Information?***

We operate 24/7/365. Contact information for our lab:

- Manager Chris North cnorth@nebraskamed.com
- Lead Tracy McAleer tmcaleer@bellevuemed.com

Phone 402-763-3150

- ***Do You Offer Tours?***

We do offer tours. Chris North would help setup any requests for a tour



