



ASCLS-ND

The Connection



September 2011



President's Message

Alice Hawley
ASCLS-ND President

CHANGE....

"Change brings opportunity." (Nido Qubein)

If there has been any word that seems to make up our lives, it is **"change"** – political, professional, personal - and all of them were addressed at the Atlanta 2011 ASCLS National Meeting!

Political – I was again amazed at how much ASCLS does to support our profession through the political maze we know as Washington, DC. Our country is going through such a roller coaster of **changes** – some we might agree with and some we might not. This roller coaster is going to new extremes, especially economically, and we will see even more bills, amendments, etc that will try to impact our profession. I am so grateful to ASCLS and their commitment to keep our profession and our professionals' objectives in the forefront of the legislative scene. I know I don't understand it all so it was refreshing to know that those who do are working tirelessly on our behalf. As laboratorians we work behind closed laboratory doors and it would be easy to think that things will remain as they are, but we need to be in charge of our future and the **changes** that are proposed or we will find ourselves in a healthcare industry that is not so friendly to the needs and desires of both the laboratory and all of our dedicated professionals. **Thank-you ASCLS!**

Professional – ASCLS-ND now has a new slate of officers that stepped into office as of the closing bell of the National Meeting. Most of us are maybe not new to ASCLS but we are stepping into new levels of leadership and are looking forward to what the year will hold. We are looking forward to the **change** that will come with new thoughts and ideas and the ability to meld that along with the best of the best that has been handed down to us from the wonderful leadership of the past. One of my goals is to bring more educational opportunities to our laboratory family. Already we have had the chance to partner with ND Dept of Health in offering PACE credit for a Healthcare Associated Infections conference that took place just last week in Bismarck. We are also assisting with the APIC (Association of Professionals in Infection Control) Fall Conference in Bismarck on Sept 16 by offering PACE credit for attendees. PLUS!!! Don't forget that the ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium will be taking place in Fargo on October 13-14, 2011 with many speakers coming from the national level – Dr. Catherine Otto, our ASCLS National President; Elissa Passiment, our ASCLS executive vice president; Dr. William Winter, a renowned expert on AIC testing and application from the University of Florida, as well as Dr. Elizabeth Leibach representing CDC but who is also well known for her work at the national level with ASCLS. Please come – we look forward to all the education that is offered but also the great opportunities to network, see vendors and share what **changes** are happening in our labs with those who are in the same situations. **Thank-you ASCLS!**

Personal – If you come to the ASCLS Region V Fall symposium, please come find me. I'll be the one who is crazily running from room to room making sure the AV is working. OR email me sometime and let me know what we as an organization can do to better meet your needs as well as the needs of your co-workers who might not be ASCLS members. This year will be a **change** for me not only because I am now your president but also because I am now an "empty-nester". Mike became an NDSU "Bison" as of this week. (So now if I could only find some place for both my husband and the dog, my house would finally stay clean and boy, would that be a **change!**)

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Don't know about you but I made a **change** from Pharmacy to Medical Technology when I went to college and it has been one of the best **changes** in my life. MLS has become my profession (**Thank-you ASCLS!!**) and not just a job. The laboratory and the great people who work in laboratories are the best!! I look forward to serving all of you this next year – and if I or ASCLS-ND can come alongside you and help in your “**changes**” just let us know because as Bruce Barton once said “when you are through **changing**, you are through.” And I want us just to keep going and getting better not only as professionals but as an organization. I will leave you with another quote from Nido Qubein, “Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go, they merely determine where you start”. Therefore, just start! Embrace **change** and who knows where we can go?!!

Alice Hawley – alice.hawley@sanfordhealth.org



Region V Report

Deb Rodahl
ASCLS Region V Director

What's New in ASCLS? ASCLS is there for you!

“Life is Change, Growth is Optional” has been one of my by-lines this year and this month takes another twist on this theme. The ASCLS National Meeting was recently held in Atlanta, Georgia from July 26th – 30th. Important changes were presented to attendees and discussed through-out the week, culminating in important decisions to be made by the grass roots members of ASCLS at the House of Delegates.

A new Mission Statement (along with updated Beliefs and Core Values) was approved by the House of Delegates reflecting a more outward vision of our organization:

ASCLS Mission

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.

The most significant discussion for the week involved the proposal to pursue the Merger of ASCLS with the Clinical Laboratory Managers Association (CLMA). The last few months have been spent exploring collaboration opportunities with CLMA, which resulted in both organizations seeing the possibilities that a combined organization could represent. This was confirmed by a favorable (Yes) vote by the ASCLS House of Delegates and the CLMA Board of Directors. Many questions were asked and answered through-out the week:

Will our name change? Not initially. It makes more sense to have a combined name ASCLS / CLMA until the time is right and members are ready to determine a representative name.

Will the national meeting change? No, the ASCLS National meeting is part of the AACC meeting with an amazing exhibit hall. This meeting will continue to be the National Meeting for a combined organization. CLEC will also remain as the national conference for clinical laboratory educators. The Legislative Symposium will also remain as this has been a collaborative meeting with CLMA for many years.

Will we lose our Grass Roots (State or Constituent Society) base? No, this is seen as a great strength among other professional organizations, and will remain the foundation of the combined organization.

Is the merger a “done deal”? No, if significant issues arise as “deal-breakers”, ASCLS and CLMA will discontinue discussions.

What are the next steps? Both organizations will continue to meet to determine the details of a merger. Legal representation will participate to ensure existing contracts are handled and proper legalities are followed. Details of a formal organizational structure will be presented at the 2012 House of Delegates.

The national meeting is also a “Show-Case” for all the wonderful things our members are doing. Our Region V ASCLS members certainly represent the best of the best, as reflected in the awards received during the 2011 ASCLS National Meeting in Atlanta this summer.

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Students:

- Beckman Coulter Student Travel Grant Winner – Bridget Nelson (WI)
- Student Forum Leadership Nominee – Katherine Pieschke (SD)
- Student Forum Leadership Winner – KauChee Vang (MN)

Professional Members:

- New Professional Member of the Year Nominee – Yukiko Goto (MN)
- Bio-Rad Professional Achievement Award in Molecular – Patricia Tille, Ph. D (SD)
- Leadership Academy Graduate – Jessica Peters (MN)
- Leadership Academy Graduate – Charlotte Romaine (MN)
- Nominee for ASCLS Member of the Year Award – Robert D. Jenson (SD)
- Nominee for ASCLS Member of the Year Award – JoAnne Nickles (MN)
- Nominee for ASCLS Member of the Year Award – Susan Stalewski (WI)
- Robin H. Mendelson Awardee – Carol McCoy (MN)

Emeritus Members: Recognition of 50 Years of ASCLS Membership

- Jean Linne (MN)
- Esther Damron (MN)

Activities:

- 1st Place for the Promotion of the Profession award – Minnesota
- 2nd Place for the ASCLS Publication Award – Website Version – Minnesota
- 2nd Place for Greatest Percent Increase in Membership – South Dakota
- 2nd Place for Greatest Percent Increase in Non-Student Membership – South Dakota

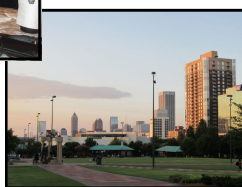
It is truly an honor to be representing Region V in ASCLS. I enjoy hearing from our members (or non-members) and can be reached at drodahl@earthlink.net

**Sincerely,
Deb Rodahl
ASCLS Region V Director
651-779-8906**

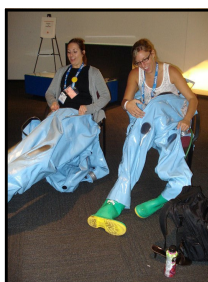
National Meeting Highlights



Jennifer Wadeson, Nikki Dillmann & Tara Bondley



Atlanta Skyline



Jennifer & Nikki



Jennifer, Tara and Nikki at the ballgame



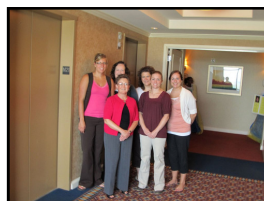
Alice, Terri and Jennifer sightseeing



Dawn Michelson, Terri Hintz & Alice Hawley



Mary Coleman, Alice Hawley & Terri Hintz



Back: Nikki, Alice, Terri
Front: Dawn, Tara, Jennifer



ND Delegation at the House of Delegates

ASCLS-ND Financial Report April 2011 – July 2011

Submitted by Toscha Larson

BEGINNING BALANCE \$23,865.78**ENDING BALANCE** \$15,719.19**Credits**

State Dues	\$150.00
Interest	\$6.53

TOTAL CREDITS \$156.53**Debits**

Student Scholarships: ASCLS-ND and State Science	\$1,550.00
ASCLS-ND Spring Meeting: Registration	\$200.00
Gas	\$50.96
National Meeting: Registration	\$1,840.00
Airfare	\$3,226.80
Secretary of State	\$15.00
Region V 2010/2011 Dues	\$193.50
Newsletter/Membership for Editor	\$262.42
Legislative Days: Registration	\$195.00
Lodging	\$219.40
Airfare	\$510.80
ASCLS-ND gifts/awards/memorials	\$39.24

TOTAL DEBITS \$8,303.12**Student Report**

Jennifer Wadeson
ASCLS-ND Student Rep

Coming in as the 2011-2012 North Dakota Student Representative and going straight to the ASCLS national meeting was quite intimidating, however, all I can say is how lucky I am to have been allotted this opportunity.

What a great experience it was to be at the ASCLS national meeting for the first time in Atlanta, Georgia. I didn't realize how much of an impact ASCLS has on the clinical laboratory profession until after this trip. I also learned of the many different career paths that someone with a clinical laboratory science degree could do, such as work for a forensic laboratory or participate in state of the art research.

Throughout the week in Atlanta, I attended multiple committee meetings ranging from the student forum to government affairs, where I learned the inner workings of this professional organization. I got to speak with the other clinical laboratory science students and discuss our role in promoting this profession. It was great to see how everyone has a voice and is allowed to give their opinion on all the issues faced. The networking that results from this organization is phenomenal. I met so many new people who are great resources and who I will continue to remain in contact with.

In addition to the education sessions and committee meetings, I got to experience the AACC Laboratory Expo. Seeing all the different exhibitors in one area was outstanding. I enjoyed being able to see all types of instrumentation for each area of the laboratory and comparing them with one another. The best part was actually being able to talk with the exhibitors and discuss their instrumentation and methodology. I was fascinated at how many exhibitors were in one room!

Besides attending the many different education sessions and committee meetings as the student representative, I got to explore Atlanta a little bit by seeing a Braves game as well as getting a tour of the Coca Cola Factory. Atlanta was quite the city, however, I think I'll continue to live in the Midwest. As of now I can't wait for the ASCLS state meeting in Bismarck where I get to experience this organization again on a smaller scale.



Delegate Report

Tara Bondley
ASCLS-ND Delegate

I have been a member of ASCLS-ND since I was a student and I had absolutely no idea what a large, well-organized group I had joined. I had such an amazing, eye opening experience in Atlanta at the national meeting. There is something for everyone! There is any number of committees, task forces, scientific assemblies, government affairs and leadership roles for all members to join. It was great to see all the amazing things that are being done for lab professionals.

The biggest news of the week was the possible merger of ASCLS and CLMA. A task force had been formed and its report was sent to members prior to the meeting so members could come to the meeting with questions and comments. The board meeting on Tuesday morning was when the discussion first started and it lasted throughout the whole week. There was plenty of opportunity for everyone's questions and concerns to be addressed, whether it was at the regional meetings, the board meeting, or the House of Delegates. After a whole week's worth of discussion and debate, the House of Delegates voted and the measure passed. ASCLS will continue on course to merge with CLMA.

I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of my time in Atlanta. Starting with the Braves game on Monday night, to the CDC tour on Thursday, to the last meeting on Saturday. It was great to see how ASCLS functions at every level, from state, to regions, to the national level. It was also interesting to see different societies work together and be honored for their individual achievements. I look forward to many more meetings, and getting to know many more laboratory professionals from all over the nation. It was a great learning experience and I am so honored to have been able to represent North Dakota in Atlanta.



Clinical Lab Expo-Atlanta 2011

Dawn Michelson
Region V Leadership Development

Part of the whole experience of attending an ASCLS National Meeting is taking in the Clinical Lab Expo and the exhibits this year in Atlanta did not disappoint. The Expo was held at the Georgia World Congress Center. There were approximately 660 vendors from all over the world. It was interesting to find that quite a few of the companies were from other countries and their products/equipment may not be approved for use here. Since approximately 25% of the Clinical Lab Expo attendees are not from the United States there is definitely a market for them there. It is hard to fit everything into a few hours so it is best to know ahead of time what vendors you need to visit. Luckily the handbook listed the vendor names, what products they were featuring and booth numbers so you could find exactly where you needed to go (yes, the exhibit hall is that big!). You could take in short five minute or ten minute new product demos at some of the booths, or at two of my favorite booths you raced the clock while identifying a series of white blood cells or competed in a pipetting contest to get a bronze, silver or gold medal. Along with the exhibits there was also a section where ASCLS Members could submit research papers in a poster format. The posters were then reviewed by peers and awards were given out in two different categories-Professional and Undergraduate at the ASCLS Awards Ceremony. It was a very tiring but interesting day-just make sure if you have the privilege of attending the Clinical Lab Expo, wear comfortable shoes!



ASCLS Awards Ceremony-ASCLS National Meeting 2011-Atlanta

Dawn Michelson
Region V Leadership Development

With some exceptions, those of us that work in the field of laboratory medicine are notorious for not wanting to toot our own horn. We take satisfaction in knowing what we do is vital and that we save countless lives every day. That is why ASCLS at the state, regional and national level makes sure to recognize those members who have devoted their skills and time to promote the organization and their profession. While at the ASCLS National Meeting 2011 in Atlanta our delegation was able to attend the ASCLS Awards Ceremony. As usual, Region V received a great number of honors and awards. Here is an explanation of some of the main awards that are given out.

Omicron Sigma is the ASCLS President's Honor Roll for Outstanding Service. It provides lasting recognition of those dedicated members who volunteer their personal resources, time and energy to the ASCLS. Recognition is at three levels: national, regional, and state. There were 10 National, 15 Regional and 32 State Omicron Sigma awardees from Region V (that is almost the maximum number of awardees allowed)-proof that our Region V is alive and kicking!

Keys to the Future-This award serves to recognize and reward ASCLS members who have demonstrated their leadership potential to the organization, and to provide these members with structured mentoring. The Key to the Future Program is intended to assist constituent societies in the development of potential leaders to serve at local, state, regional and national levels of the Society. Additionally, the program encourages appointments and nominations of these highly motivated members to positions of responsibility within the organization that will further their leadership development. Each society can nominate 3 members and I am pleased to say this year Region V nominated a total of 10 members. They actually had poster boards outside the awards ceremony hall listing all 71 Key to the Future recipients-very nice to see!

Member of the Year-The National ASCLS Member of the Year Award is sponsored each year to recognize a member of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science who has contributed significantly to the field of clinical laboratory science and to the Society and who has, by outstanding example, inspired others. It is the ultimate goal of ASCLS for each society to nominate their Member of the Year for this award.

New Professional of the Year-The National ASCLS New Professional of the Year Award is awarded each year to recognize a member of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science who has contributed significantly to the field of clinical laboratory science and to the Society in their first five years in the profession. Again, it is the goal of ASCLS for a New Professional from each society to be nominated.

Kudos to: KauChee Vang from MN won the Student Forum Leadership Award. Sarah Henn from SD won the Education Scientific Assembly Student Paper Award in the Research category. Pat Tille from SD won the Bio-Rad Professional Achievement Award in Microbiology. ASCLS-MN won 2nd place for their electronic newsletter "e-LABorate". ASCLS-SD won 2nd place in both greatest percent increase in membership and greatest percent increase in non-student membership. Out of the seven Leadership Academy Graduates, two were from MN-Jessica Peters and Charlotte Romain. It proves that our region has a wealth of gifted, dedicated members and plenty of new talent to mentor and cultivate!

To be nominated or receive any of these awards is a great honor. If there is an ASCLS member that has made an impression on you and they qualify for any of these awards PLEASE nominate them! The criteria and deadlines for the awards are all on the ASCLS website or contact me at medtecdawn2@msn.com and I can guide you through the process. Thank you!

FALL SYMPOSIUM



VOICE -VALUE -VISION

October 13 - 14, 2011

Location: Best Western Doublewood Inn
3333 13th Avenue South, Fargo, ND 58103
Phone (701) 235-3333

Website: www.doublewoodinn.com

Contacts for Meeting or Registration Questions

Tom Massmann Tom.Massmann@Allina.com
Leola Olson lolson@primecare.org

Publication Submission Deadline

The publication submission deadline for articles for the next issue of *The Connection* is **Monday January 9, 2012**. Submit any articles to:

Shannon Jongeward
shannon@gra.midco.net



Membership Report

Terri Hintz
ASCLS-ND President-Elect

I was fortunate to be elected ASCLS-ND President-Elect at the State Meeting in Minot and soon after I discovered that I would be on my way to Atlanta for the ASCLS Annual Meeting. I was excited for the opportunity to learn more about how ASCLS functions as an organization and what my new role in our state society entails.

To ensure North Dakota was represented at all of the various meetings each person in our delegation was assigned to attend specific meetings. In North Dakota the President-Elect also serves as the Membership Chairperson so it was only natural that I attended the Membership Services Committee and Membership Recruitment Committee Meetings to find out what's new this year.

While the ASCLS membership is strong there will always be the desire to attract more people to the group and retain those who are already members. The idea is to have one loud voice for Medical Laboratory Professionals throughout the country and the more voices we have the greater impact we have. It may sound easy but I learned that gaining new members and keeping the current membership can be a challenge.

Because the Membership Recruitment and Membership Services Committees have overlapping responsibilities during the upcoming year they will be combined into a single committee. The ASCLS Board of Directors charged the committee with the following tasks in the upcoming year:

1. Brainstorm ideas and work with staff to develop a Membership Campaign that results in an increase in membership a minimum of 10%.
2. Work with the New Professionals Committee, Forum for the Concerns of Minorities and the Student Forum to implement the Membership Campaign.
3. Work with the Minority Concerns Forum to develop strategies to attract members reflecting the diversity of the profession.
4. Work with the Student Forum to increase the number of new student members by 5% over the number of new student members attained during 2010-2011.
5. Work with the New Professionals Committee to increase the number of students who convert from Student to First Year Professional Membership.
6. Provide a minimum of two articles for ASCLS Today highlighting services and products available to members.
7. Edit the Membership Development Manual.
8. Use Membership Matters mailing list to send monthly Membership "newsletters". Assign a monthly recruitment topic to be written by a committee member.
9. Confirm by September 1 that all those responsible for membership in each constituent society have the society code to access rosters via the ASCLS website. Know how to call a roster.
10. Provide a monthly e-mail list of new members to each society President for welcome mailings. Send notice about how Group profile.
11. Review MRC survey from 2011 and identify how information can be passed on to others.

The Committee has quite the "to do" list ahead of them (particularly item #1) but they are a group of determined, passionate members who are up for the challenge.

One of the things I enjoyed most during the meeting was the brainstorming sessions conducted to hear the different ways each state society works to honor current members and attract new members. It was great to hear what has worked well in other parts of the country and I look forward to sifting through all of the ideas presented to find new ways for North Dakota to involve current members and increase membership.

Another large part of our discussion surrounded the redesigned ASCLS web site. It has a look and feel not too different from Facebook. Each member has a profile page and can share information about themselves on their page. Members can also belong to groups and establish "connections" with other ASCLS members. If you haven't had time to check it out please take a few moments to update your profile, add a photo of yourself and make a few connections. I think you'll enjoy surfing the new site.

Lastly, I want to hear from each of *YOU*, our members, and our most valuable resource. What are things you like about ASCLS that you want to see continued? What could we do better? How can we better connect with and involve members that want to be more active? How can we reach your co-workers who have not yet made the decision to be a part of ASCLS? I'm eager to hear your thoughts and ideas and put them to good use to strengthen ASCLS-ND in the coming year.

Contact me at thintz@altru.org or connect with me on the ASCLS web page.

2011-2012 ASCLS-ND Leadership Roster

Position	Name	Preferred Email	Home Phone	Work/Cell Phone
President	Alice Hawley	Alice.hawley@sanfordhealth.org	701-282-2617	701-234-2482
President-Elect	Terri Hintz	thintz@altru.org	701-772-1388	701-780-5146
Past President	Leola Olson	lolson@primecare.org	701-258-5835	701-530-5700
Secretary/Treasurer	Toscha Larson	tolarson@altru.org	218-857-3303	701-780-1650
Board Member	Brooke Solberg	brooke.solberg@med.und.edu		701-777-2245
Board Member	Jim Svihovec	jimsvihovec@catholichealth.net		
Nominations Chair	Linda Ray	linda.ray@med.und.edu	218-773-8599	701-777-3687
Student Forum Rep	Jennifer Wadeson	jennifer.wadeson@gmail.com	701-799-8134	
New Professional Rep	Nicole Hager	nicolehagger88@hotmail.com	701-542-3337	701-952-4774
Region V Director	Deb Rodahl	drodahl@earthlink.net	651-779-8906	651-232-3224

State Committee Chair or Key Contacts

Awards	Leola Olson	lolson@primecare.org	701-258-5835	701-530-5700
Bylaws	Leola Olson	lolson@primecare.org	701-258-5835	701-530-5700
Government Affairs	Elaine Ramstad	datsmar@msn.com	701-775-3426	701-780-5144
Leadership Development	Leola Olson	lolson@primecare.org		
Membership Services	Terri Hintz	thintz@altru.org	701-772-1388	701-780-5146
PACE	Mary Coleman	mcoleman@medicine.nodak.edu	701-775-3664	701-777-2652
Political Action (PAC)	Mary Coleman			
Professional Affairs	Elaine Ramstad	datsmar@msn.com	701-775-3426	701-780-5144
Publication-Newsletter	Shannon Jongeward	shannon@gra.midco.net	701-739-3484	701-780-5144
Website	Nicole Hager Elaine Ramstad			

Scientific Assembly

Chemistry/UA	Alice Hawley	Alice.hawley@meritcare.com	701-282-2617	701-234-2482
Microbiology	Patricia Person	Pat.person@meritcare.com	701-280-0136	701-234-2112
Lab Administration	Sandra Matthey	Sandra.matthey@meritcare.com	701-297-9171	701-234-2481
Immuno/ImmunoHeme	Terri Hintz	thintz@altru.org	701-772-1388	701-780-5146
Heme/Hemostasis	Stacy Askvig	saskvig@medicine.nodak.edu		701-839-1847
Generalist/Pub Health				
Industry				
Education	Susan Finneman	susan.finneman@rasmussen.edu		218-304-6200
POC/Phlebotomy	Margie Vossler	mvossler@primecare.org	701-222-3177	701-530-6782
Molecular Diag/Genetics	Linda Ray	lindaray@medicine.nodak.edu	218-773-8599	701-777-2687

Consultants**Reg Affairs/QM****Area Leaders**

Bismarck	Nancy Buchholz	nbuchholz@primecare.org		701-530-5721
Minot	Liane Anderson	liane.anderson@trinityhealth.org	701-852-1607	701-857-5210
Grand Forks	Chris Triske	ctriske@medicine.nodak.edu	701-746-9432	701-777-2634
Fargo	Linda Gylland	Linda.gylland@meritcare.com		701-234-2113