



Volume 33, Number 2
May, 2004

The Pipette Line

A Publication of the Georgia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Catherine G. Weaver, MS, CLS (NCA), MT(ASCP)

ASCLS-Georgia is the new name in a new game, challenging its members to stretch for the future of clinical laboratory science.

The organization builds on the traditions of GSMT and GSCLS but treks new territories in education, legislation and science.

The ASCLS-Georgia Articles of Incorporation list eight purposes:

- To promote standards in CLS
- To enhance the professional image
- To create mutual cooperation
- To provide educational programs
- To determine entry level requirements and credentialing
- To represent CLS interests with affiliates and government
- To promote ethical standards
- To provide benefit to all members of CLS

ASCLS-Georgia aims to use new approaches to accomplish these original, noble purposes. New approaches derive from members' contributing their ideas and talents. The personal strengths of each individual member form the collective momentum that drives ASCLS-Georgia. Members capitalize on their strengths through volunteering and multiply their talents through a team effort. An example is the group dynamics evident in a lively ASCLS-Georgia Board of Directors Meeting. The creativity generated by a CLS gathering produces shared scientific and management information, educational activities, legislative projects, publications, websites and, best of all, a network of analytical-minded Clinical Laboratory Scientists and Technicians. Harnessing such creative commitments to a specific long-range plan gives direction to future activities.

Structures that served us well in the past may not meet the needs of future endeavors in education, credentialing or legislation. Entry-level education levels may need escalation. Credentialing may require an equivalency rating. Legislation may harbor multiple agendas. I encourage you to keep an open mind and generous volunteer spirit as ASCLS-Georgia positions for growth under the new capable leadership of Anne Ranne.

Contents

Presidents Message	1
CLBBTB News	2
Annual meeting pics	2
Region III meeting	3
Scrub sale results	4
Local news	4
Awards and new officers	5
Name change	6
Legislative day	7

Officers and Directors

President, Cathy Weaver H(770)434-8889
W(770)793-5445

Past President, Lester Hardegee
H(912)764-3454
W(912)921-7442

President Elect, Anne Ranne
Secretary, Patricia Linkous H(478)746-6028
W(478)633-2507

Treasurer, Lester Pretlow W(706)721-7631
District I, Elizabeth Kenimer H(706)453-4134
W(706)721-3046

District II, Wendy Price H(912)449-9769
W(912)287-2586

District III, Lynn Fritz H(299)228-0784
W(229)228-2939

District IV, E. Darecell Thaxton
W(478)633-2685

District V Vacant

District VI Vacant

District VII, Laura Stowers H(678)546-3795
W(678)442-4503

District VIII, Cathy Minish H(404)534-4189
W(404)535-3553

District IX, Anne Ranne H(770)513-0638
W(404)686-2654

Student Forum Chair, Ronnie T. Macy
H(912)383-0153

Student Forum Advisor Sarah Duvall
H(706)733-5993

Region III Director Lynn Ingram

2610 Lanrich Cove
Memphis, TN
Ingram@utm.edu

ASCLS President Barbra Brown

barbarabrowncls@adelphia.net

National Student Representative Robbe Peetz

turby10cj@yahoo.com

Other email address may be found at GSCLS
website <http://www.ga.ascls.org>

The Pipette Line

Editor: *Bonnie Gum*

The Pipette Line is a quarterly Publication of the **Georgia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science** for its members.

Note: Copies of complete board minutes and committee reports are available to members on request from Patricia Linkous, GSCLS secretary. Address all correspondence to

Pipette Line Editor
135 Huntington Drive
LaGrange, GA 30240

The Clinical Laboratory, Blood Bank, and Tissue Bank Advisory Committee met May 13 at the DHR Central Laboratory on Clairmont Road.

The Committee continues to discuss autoverification and total automation. The discussion has centered around the proof of proper functioning and the involvement of non-credentialed personnel in specimen handling. If you have suggestions as to how automation should be managed with regard to personnel, please to do not hesitate to contact me to share your thoughts. I may be reached at 706-845-3184 or at davidsonj@mindspring.com.

Everyone was reminded that all sentinel events in a laboratory facility must be reported to DHR.

The phlebotomy exam from the National Center for Competency Testing was approved as a recognized phlebotomy exam.

The next meeting of the Committee has been changed to July 15 due to the meeting of the Georgia Hospital Association. The meeting will be at the DHR Central Laboratory on Clairmont Road in Atlanta at 10 AM.

Photos from ASCLS-GA business meeting



**Special People are around us
everyday.**

**Take time out, right now, and let
us know about them. Perhaps
something outstanding has hap-
pened in your community. Please
share with the Pipette Line editor
at the address above or email**

nagum@charter.net

**Pictures from your laboratory are
most welcome!!**



**REPORT OF THE ASCLS REGION III COUNCIL MEETING
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI
MAY 1-2, 2004**

On May 1st the state societies representing Region III met in Gulfport Mississippi for a Spring Retreat. Cathy Weaver and Anne Ranne made the trip together. It was a wonderful trip. While Cathy and Anne worked on the leadership plans for 2004-2005 Anne's husband, Arland, drove them to Gulfport. It was quite a ride.

Lynn Ingram gave a report on the ASCLS update and issues. There are some good financial news for this year. Membership is an important part of our budget. Lynn wants us to really support membership in our states. The virtual ASCLS office has really helped to cut costs.

ASCLS is asking for help on the Consumer Info Response Team especially in the areas of Immunology and Chemistry. It is just taking a few days a week. Each question from the web email receives a response from an expert in that laboratory discipline. If you are interested send a response to the ASCLS web site via Lynn Ingram.

There are some new items in the On-line ASCLS store. The Focus series is available on-line and it provides CE for members. The new recruitment materials are also available on-line.

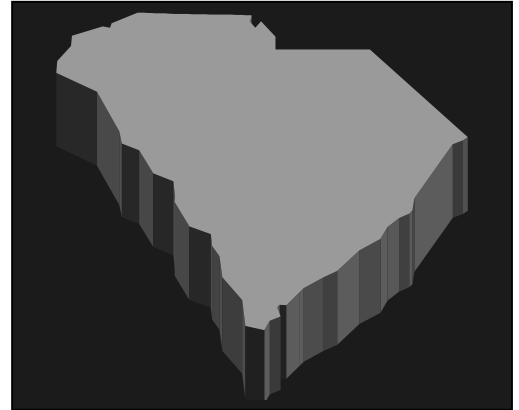
There are several task forces presenting papers at the annual ASCLS conference. One task force is developing a plan to pilot a program with a university for advanced CLS practitioner degree. A position paper will be presented at the annual meeting on personnel licensure. Another group is developing a statement about the new CLIA Equivalent QC guidelines. A final paper will be presented on direct access testing.

This year there is a proposal to change the Scientific Assemblies. The changes are:

1. Biochemistry/Urinalysis/Ligand will change to Chemistry/Urinalysis
2. Histology will change to Histology/Cytotechnology
3. Phlebotomy change to Phlebotomy/POCT
4. Inspector/surveyor change to Regulatory Affairs and Quality Management
5. Add Molecular Diagnostics/Genetics and Generalist/Public Health

Put the Region III Triennial Meeting in Nashville on your calendar. It will be held September 24-26, 2004. It is a time to meet our friends in Region III and attend some continuing education programs

Written by: Anne Ranne, President-Elect



News from National ASCLS

“Section 947 of the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) requires that all Medicare participating hospitals, as part of their Medicare provider agreement, comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) standards at 29 CFR 1910.1030. For more detailed information, see the letter to Hospital Administrators at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/mma947.pdf> .

The BBP standards can be found on OSHA’s website at <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/>. CMS proposed this

requirement in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CMS-1428-P, in the Federal Register which can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providerupdate/regsum.asp#1428p> .”

Dade-Behring and the Coordinating Council on the Clinical Laboratory Workforce (CCCLW) are once again offering 50 \$1000 scholarships to CLT students. Applications, eligibility requirements and more information may be printed from the ASCLS webpage, www.ascls.org (see “What’s New?” column) or from the NAACLS homepage, www.naacls.org (see “Announcements”).

The application must be submitted by July 15, 2004; eligible students must complete their 2nd year of a CLT Program by August 31, 2005. Scholarships will be announced in September 2004.

Questions? Contact Dr. Jim Griffith at JGriffith@UMassD.Edu.

NMLW 2004 ASCLS-GEORGIA SCRUBS SALE

ASCLS-Georgia co-sponsored Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) fundraisers at two Georgia CMN hospitals during National Medical Laboratory Week. Alexis Cantwell coordinated a two days sale April 21-22, 2004 at Columbus Regional Health System in Columbus, GA. Connie Ciu and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Scottish Rite Hospital hosted a one-day sale April 23, 2004. The vendor of choice for both sites was First Uniform. This was the third consecutive year that First Uniform cooperated with ASCLS-Georgia and the CMN hospitals during NMLW. Scheduling the sales in NMLW added recognition to the clinical laboratory profession while benefiting the hospitals. ASCLS-Georgia will again compete for the annual ASCLS CMN F u n d r a i s i n g A w a r d .

Promoting the Profession

GSCLS participated in two high school health career fair exhibits this year: Paulding County High School and Marietta High School in Cobb County. Laboratory career information, handouts, a microscope exhibit and clinical laboratory posters were available for a total of 2200 students. Clinical laboratory career information was distributed to students from South Cobb Allied Health Magnet High School who toured the Cobb Hospital Clinical Laboratory. A GSCLS exhibit at Cobb Hospital during NMLW attracted 50 inquiries about the entry-level education for the clinical laboratory.

GSCLS/AACC

2004 Annual Meeting

February 24 & 25, 2004

Atlanta Marriott Century Center

Report by Cathy Weaver

Georgia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science held its Annual Meeting and Exhibit with the Southeast Section - American Association for Clinical Chemistry on February 24-25, 2004 at the Marriott Century Center Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia. Three business meetings included a pre-convention board meeting, the Student Forum Meeting and the Annual Business Meeting. GSCLS collaborated with 19 sponsors, 6 health systems and 25 GSCLS volunteers to present 12 exhibits, 25 speakers, 18 P.A.C.E. accredited seminars, one keynote speaker, a two-day registry review and one evening social activity. The registered attendees totaled 177 participants, exclusive of speakers and sponsors.

GSCLS honored 14 recipients at the Annual GSCLS Awards Banquet on February 25, 2004.

Keys to the Future Award: **Barbara Kraj**
Omicron Sigma Award: **Hassan Aziz, Stan Fouche, Bonnie Gum, Patti Linkous, Ron Macy, Cathy Minish, Anne Ranne Darcell Thaxton**
Surviving the Challenges
Contribution to the Profession: **Patricia Linkous, Dr. Elizabeth Kenimer-Leibach**
Gloria Gilbert Award: **Dr. Lester Pretlow**
Clinical Laboratory Scientist of the Year 2004 **Chanda Bennett**

The newly elected 2004-2005 GSCLS officers include these members:

President, **Anne Ranne**
President-elect, **Hassan Aziz**
Secretary, **Patricia Linkous**
Treasurer, **Lester Pretlow, Ph.D.**

Student Forum: President: **Christine Bell**
Vice-president: **Ashleigh Lewis**
Secretary: **Nicole Jefferson**

April 20, 2004

Dear GSCLS Member,

Georgia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science recently changed its name to American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Georgia. The GSCLS membership approved this name change at the Annual Meeting February 25, 2004. The ASCLS By Laws Chair approved the change. The Georgia Secretary of State approved the name change on April 9, 2004. The updated Articles of Incorporation and ByLaws are attached for your review. Only the organization name was changed.

Three compelling reasons led to a new identification for GSCLS:

1. To establish solidarity with the national organization, American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science.

A united profession is more effective. The "ASCLS-Georgia" brand clearly identifies with a national organization benchmark, ASCLS.

2. To associate all Georgia clinical laboratory scientists with national positions on professional issues.

ASCLS represents the interests of all Georgia's clinical laboratory scientists in legislative, reimbursement, labor and educational issues . The local and state efforts of "ASCLS-GA" are more closely identified with ASCLS's collaboration with regulating agencies, accrediting bodies and industry partners. Re-branding GSCLS clarifies the national support available to our profession.

3. To increase visibility of the clinical laboratory profession.

Collaboration between clinical laboratory professional organizations leads to resolution of common issues. An example is the Coordinating Council on Clinical Laboratory Workforce. Identifying with ASCLS associates our local and state issues with national solutions.

I would appreciate your continued support of "ASCLS-GA" by sharing your energies and hopes through active membership in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Cathy Weaver, MS, MT (ASCP), CLS(NCA)

President

ASCLS-Georgia

cweaver@czinc.com

ASCLS-CLMA LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM 2004

By Cathy Weaver

Members of ASCLS and CLMA attended the annual Legislative Forum in Washington, DC March 22-23, 2004. Speakers from ASCLS, ASCP, CLMA and CMS addressed legislative and regulatory issues affecting the clinical laboratory. ASCLS presented its positions on laboratory services reimbursement, personnel shortages, competitive bidding, Medicare reform and Title VII and VIII for education. Cathy Weaver represented ASCLS, visited with Congressman Philip Gingrey and distributed ASCLS Position Papers to the offices of other Georgia Congressmen.

ASCLS is particularly concerned with three main legislative issues currently impact the clinical laboratory:

1. COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003" provided for an Advisory and Oversight Committee for demonstration competitive bidding projects for clinical laboratory services. Members of eighteen laboratory professional organizations are available to serve on this committee. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has not made committee appointments. While most clinical laboratories oppose competitive bidding, they prefer to advise and oversee any CMS demonstration project. Demonstration projects should include a menu of about 1000 tests to avoid selective bidding and to bid on quality, service and communication aspects. Some factors for bid selection are the fiscal intermediary, carrier, and location of patient contact and testing site location.

POSITION:

- Advise HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson to appoint Advisory and Oversight Committee for a demonstration of clinical laboratory competitive bidding.
- Recommend appropriations for this Committee.

2. PERSONNEL SHORTAGE

Two bills in the U.S. House of Representatives address the allied health personnel shortage. Both need House of Representative sponsors and a Senate companion bill.

Allied Health Reinvestment Act (sponsored by Stearns of Florida)

Shimkus-Jackson-Bilirakus HB 623: Medical Laboratory Personnel Shortage Act of 2003

- Scholarship and loan repayment with obligated service in designated areas.
- Similar to National Health Service Corps Program
- Schools of allied health and hospital-based programs are eligible for awards
- Prefers establishing or expanding laboratory program student capacity.
- Increase funding in 2004 to \$100 million and include all allied health
- Funds grants, contracts and scholarships through 2008

POSITION:

Advise co-sponsorship of both House bills
Request Senate companion bill

3. SPECIMEN COLLECTION FEE

- Rep. Bill English sponsored "Medical Laboratory Service Access Act of 2003"
- Estimated annual low cost of new collection fee: \$5m - \$11m
- No update from \$3 fee since 1984; increased safety, nursing home costs.
- CPI adjusted rate is \$5.25.
- POSITION: Advise co-sponsorship of HB 833 "Medical Laboratory Services Access Act 2003"

June 27-31, 2004

**ASCLS Annual
Meeting, Los
Angeles, CA**

**September 23-26, 2004 ASCLS Region III Triennial Meeting, Vanderbilt Marriott,
Nashville, TN.**

July 26-30, 2005

ASCLS Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL

TBA 2005

**Expo for Health Careers, ASCLS Learning for Life Explorers
Committee**



website <http://www.ga.ascls.org>

ASCLS - GA

135 Huntington Drive

LaGrange, GA 30240