



The Pipette Line

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

View from the Desk of Anne Rand



“There are powers inside of you which, if you could discover and use them, would make of you everything you ever dreamed or imagined you could become.” Orison Swett Marden

How many times have we said “I don’t have the ability to do that job or skill” and let the opportunity pass. I know I have to be realistic and know my limitations. I will not be able to dance in River Dance or compete in a beauty contest. But so many times opportunities are available, and we don’t even step up to the challenge.

The ASCLS Georgia 57th Annual Meeting was held February 28-March 1. The theme was “Surviving the Challenges 2005”. The laboratory professional’s role is changing with new technology, auto verification, and POC testing. Are you up for the challenge?

In a recent newspaper article I read Georgia is ranked No. 8 in the number of biotechnology companies according to Ernst & Young. Biotech companies are among the highest-paying jobs. They include pharmaceutical, medical research and health care technology. Of course, Georgia’s medical centers are always looking for laboratory professionals. The challenge is there for all of us to make a difference in this rapidly growing job market or become extinct.

If you have not joined ASCLS now is the time to become a member. Join before June 1st, and you will get a 16 month membership. Current members can get a chance to win a free trip to the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida by signing up a new member.

Let’s get active in ASCLS and accept the challenge!

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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 **Bonnie Gum**, ASCLS-GA secretary. Address all correspondence to

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135 Huntington Drive
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"A Message From Your New Student Forum Officers"

Robert Childers, President
Lenifer LeFebvre, Vice President
Mary Nelson, Secretary

On February 28th and March 1st, GSCLS held its annual meeting in Atlanta. The meeting went very well. Students enjoyed interaction with many vendors who were willing to explain their products and offer many great souvenirs. The conference offered a broad selection of review sessions to help prepare students for the National Registry Exam. The conference was also a wonderful chance for students from different schools to meet and elect their new officers for 2005-2006. As the new Student Forum Officers, our main goal is to entice students to become involved through networked planning and organization. Our current project is to contact every Georgia laboratory science program in the pursuit of collaborating with a representative from each school. This collaboration will make it simpler to provide a constant flow of information and exchange of ideas between programs. This networking will be especially important in the promotion of student turnout at the national ASCLS conference in July. We hope that students will want to participate in our aspirations to promote awareness of our profession. Some potential projects may include speaking to high school students at career fairs and submitting articles about the shortage in our profession to school and local publications. We are still brainstorming and welcome any ideas. Hopefully, we can plan a collaborative activity to take place during National Lab Week (April 24th-30th), possibly a picnic, so that students statewide can have another opportunity to form friendships and support each other on our journey to success.

New Student Officers

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A few words from Christine Bell

This year at the convention, it was so wonderful to see all of the students and how enthusiastic they were about being involved. The student elections went better than I ever could have expected. I was so glad to see not only prepared speeches, but also campaigning. My thanks goes out to those students as well that decided at the last minute to run for an office and got up in front of everyone with no speech prepared. Everyone did a wonderful job! Congratulations to our new officers!

I have been able to meet so many wonderful people in the laboratory since I started my clinical rotations this past November. They have far exceeded my expectations. I expected to meet people that were very introverted and kept to themselves, I figured that was why they were working in the laboratory. Much to my surprise, I have met quite the opposite. I have loved every area of the lab that I have rotated through so far.

This past year, being an officer I have been able to see the networking that this organization talks so much about. I have been able to meet people at the state and national level. It was so neat at the national meeting to meet students from around the country that were working towards the same goal and had some of the same struggles. I am so excited to hear that the AASU students are already starting raise money in planning to attend the national meeting this year in Orlando. I am so glad that I was able to take part in this organization this past year. I wish that I could have been more involved, but being a student that is really difficult to do. Thank you to all of you who have helped me this year, especially my student advisor, Barbara Kraj. 2

DEKALB TECHNICAL COLLEGE'S FIRST STUDENT-OF-THE-YEAR

By Ginny Roberts

DeKalb Tech's MLT Student of the Year Award was initiated by the Advisory Committee for the Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) Program. The committee suggested that clinical sites who thought their students were exceptional write a nomination letter to be sent to all of the other members of the committee. After reading and reviewing all letters of nomination, the committee votes on one student.

Elizabeth Cohen, the first Student-Of-The-Year, is an exemplary student in every way. She was an excellent student during her classroom studies. She was the GOAL (Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership) nominee for the MLT Program. Elizabeth always went above and beyond in her classroom work by coming in early to help with lab preparation and stayed late to help clean-up. She was congenial with her classmates and worked with other students who were struggling. She was assigned to Emory University Hospital. There her performance continued to be exemplary. She was always there, on-time, ready to work, and with an enthusiastic attitude. Every department that she rotated through wanted to hire her, wanted her to choose their department in which to work. She has made her decision! She went to work for the Microbiology Department at Emory and started full time March 7, 2005.

Elizabeth holds a bachelor's degree in International Studies. She went to work for Roche Laboratories and then for Quest Diagnostics, finding out that she really loved laboratory work. She worked at Quest for fourteen years and finally decided to return to the classroom to get the technical training she needed to be a certified laboratory technician. She first went back to college to take science courses she lacked for the MLT Program. Now that she has completed the MLT Program she is planning on getting her bachelor's degree as a Medical Technologist from the Medical College of Georgia.

We are so proud of Elizabeth and welcome her into the field of laboratory medicine.



Christina Bell
Awarded
Keys to the Future
Presented at the ASCLS-GA
Annual Awards Luncheon

The national office of ASCLS has requested Region III and ASCLS Georgia support the continuation of the Gloria Gilbert Award. To maintain the fund \$2000 must be submitted within the next two years (2005-2006) or the fund will be discontinued. If members wish to contribute to the Gloria Gilbert fund they can make checks out to **ASCLS-Georgia** and send them to Lester Pretlow.

Dr. Lester Pretlow
The Department of Biomedical and Radiological
Technologies
Medical College of Georgia
Building AL-106
Augusta, GA 30912-0500

Join the M - G - M Campaign! Be an ASCLS Star



**Every laboratory professional deserves
the opportunities of the
VOICE - VALUE- VISION
OF ASCLS membership**

That's why we are inviting you to participate in the ASCLS Member-Get-A~ Member (M-G-M) Campaign. The goal of the M-G-M Campaign is to increase our membership by asking each of you to share how much ASCLS membership means to you both professionally and personally with at least .one laboratory professional. Every member receives the benefits that you enjoy as an AS CLS member-

****CLSJJournal**

****ASCLS Today**

****Members-only discounts on publications DSavings on conference registrations**

****Membership in state and regional organizations**

****Current information about legislative/regulatory issues**

****An instant network of laboratory professionals**

As a reward for your hard work recruiting ASCLS Memembers, you will receive both professional and personal benefits!

M.G.M PRIZES

The Grand Prize is a free trip (registration, travel, and hotel) to the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL on July 26-30, 2005

PLUS

A \$100 Gift Certificate that you can use while in Orlando to reward your hard work! Use this gift certificate for a round of golf; a massage in a local spa, a great dinner at a local restaurant, or towards admission to any of the Orlando area parks.

When you recruit the following number of members you will receive these gifts!

1 PFI or PFII Member, or 2 Collaborative or FYP Members, or 4 Student Members:
Each and every time you sign up a new member you will be automatically entered into the Grand Prize Drawing and you will receive an ASCLS Star Pin.

5 PFI or PFII Members, 10 Collaborative or FYP Members, or 20 Student Members: ~
Each and every time you sign up a new member you will be automatically entered into the Grand Prize Drawing. You will also receive an ASCLS Star Pin and a \$50 gift certificate good toward the purchase of any item in the ASCLS On-line Store.

The Top Recruiter for this campaign will receive all of the above items PLUS a framed certificate from International Star Registry identifying a real star in the sky, named in your honor!

 ***It's easy to be an ASCLS Star!*** 

Invite your coworkers, vendor associates, managers, and colleagues in other healthcare professions to become an ASCLS member and enjoy the benefits of membership.

Enter your name and membership number on the 'My Mentor/Recruiter is:' line on page 2 of the application form and pass it along.

All membership applications for the M-G-M Campaign must be received by June 1, 2005. Winners will be announced by June 15, 2005.

Remember, the more members you recruit, the better your chances are to win!

New members can join on-line at www.ascls.Qrg and additional membership applications can be downloaded from the same website.

Check our website, www.ascls.org, for additional details and rules applying to this campaign

CLEC: UNDER THE BIG TOP IN WILLIAMSBURG

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

ASCLS and the Virginia Clinical Laboratory Educators Consortia sponsored the 21st Annual Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference in Williamsburg, VA February 24-26, 2005. A record number 400 educators attended seminars and exhibits. A hotel construction project necessitated a unique site for the general sessions: a grand portable white tent, complete with butane heaters and draped dining tables. A few steps away, the Woodlands Hotel Conference center hosted the breakout seminars and exhibits. A brief snow flurry frosted the winter landscape around the “CLEC Big Top,” sharpening attention spans and quickening steps in 29 degree F. weather. The conference provided numerous resources through seminars, exhibits and informal networking. The following summary describes only a few of the thirty presentations available.

EDUCATING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: Keynote speaker Dr. Belle Whelan, Ph.D., Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia, described how Virginia prepares 21st century students for a knowledge-based economy by providing early, equitable education. Every Virginia high school offers 13 online Advanced Placement courses. High school seniors may enroll in community college programs which Virginia finances as late as fall after high school graduation. She encouraged clinical laboratory professionals to visit elementary schools to foster an early interest in science.

NAACLS: Dr. David Gale, Ph.D. from Eastern Kentucky University, presented an update from the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS). Currently there are 241 NAACLS-accredited MLT and MT programs to meet a 20% staff shortage in the clinical laboratory. A Graduate Task Force is examining standards for graduate education. NAACLS encountered mixed reaction to a proposal for MS entry level to the CLS profession. NAACLS will focus on (1) linking standards to performance excellence and (2) studying student evaluations for recruitment indicators.

ENTRY LEVEL SKILL SETS: A panel of managers and CLS educators recommended changes in entry-level curriculum so that new graduates have the skill sets for current challenges in the field. Hospital administrators generally examine the laboratory for its contribution to the profit margin per square footage occupied. The MS CLS degree should prepare specialists in esoteric testing, improve appropriate utilization of services, offer consultative services and design work to decrease length of stay and increase efficiencies.

- Challenge: Educating the medical staff on how the laboratory works.
Skills set: multi-tasking, improving interpersonal and communication skills, focusing objectively on pure science, assessing competency of non-CLS/CLT staff performing testing functions; consultative skills demonstrating quick grasp of complex problems and solutions, customer relations.
- Challenge: Educating patients.
Skills set: Generalist knowledge bases, independent decision making, relate well to patients
- Challenge: Educating administration on laboratory operations
Skills set: design efficiencies of time, material and staffing to reduce cost yet maintain quality standards.
- Challenge: Educating the new CLS about the health care team and the health care industry.
Skills set: utilize knowledge of various health disciplines in forming team-based solutions.
- Challenge: Educating to support a high-tech environment.
Skills set: basic knowledge of concepts in all testing systems; hands-on troubleshooting requiring electro-mechanical-computer skills; consultative skills to maintain systems.
- Challenge: Educate to treat the exceptions.
Skills set: develop critical thinking skills to analyze exceptions to autoverification testing systems

NCA UPDATE: The purpose of NCA is to establish and enforce standards of clinical laboratory professions. Currently 87% applicants pass NCA exams; 91 % of NAACLS-approved program students pass NCA exams. The National Organization for Certifying Agencies approved all nine NCA programs on its first review.

SIM LAB CONCEPT: Simulations can teach some select lab processes with no impact on patient care, at lower training costs and with standardized training techniques. SIM lab is taught to CLS senior students for Method Validation, Quality Assurance, Laboratory Management and Regulatory Compliance, CAP Mock Inspection and Certification or Validation of Equipment. A SOP for Developing Clinical Simulations outlines the format for other specific SOP's addressing current lab issues. SIM-Lab reduces student rotations to five weeks in a hospital lab and reduces instructor time and reagent or instrument cost. Further efficiencies in teaching labs include homemade or donated reagents, spiked student specimens and outdated QC or proficiency specimens.

CLS AND CLINICAL ROUNDING: CLS participation in clinical rounding results in informative comments from other departments and improved clinical outcomes. Rounding keeps CLS engaged in the realistic perspective of the total healthcare team. Laboratory often intervenes even before results are posted to the electronic medical record. These intervention results in action by the direct care team, better patient care and management, shorter length of stay and reduction of cost and risk to the patient.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ON HEALTHCARE ISSUES: Elissa Paissiment, Executive Director of ASCLS identified these national issues:

- **Reimbursement:** In selected parts of the country, all Medicare lab work is up for bid. Final report is due December 2005. There is a five year freeze on reimbursement (until 2009) based on the 2004 CPI. If the CPI exceeds 2.5, ASCLS would ask for an increased reimbursement. Certain prevention-based lab tests can be bundled. Some repeat tests are allowed if an associated health risk is identified. An ABN is mandatory for all who receive "Welcome to Medicare" screening tests. Monitor on www.ascls.org
- **20% Co-Pay:** Congress again included a 20% co-pay proposal in the 2005 budget, which generates more administrative and collection costs to the laboratory. ASCLS does not approve a Medicare co-payment plan.
- **CLIA FOR GYN CYTOLOGY:** All pathologists and cytologists performing gynecologic cytology must be tested annually for proficiency by either MIME or, for Md. Residents only, the State of Maryland. The initial test is for education purpose but failures can only screen and cannot report out. Re-tests will be available at one national site. Monitor www.mimeinc.org
- **CLIA TEST CATEGORIES:** Low and moderate tests are now considered "waived." The only two categories of tests are now waived or non-waived.
- **CLINICAL LABORATORY STANDARDS INSTITUTE (formerly NCCLS)** will meet in Baltimore to discuss quality control systems, particularly electronic control systems.
- **JCAHO:** Beginning January 2006 surveys are unannounced. Tracer methodology follows testing from order to report. Surveyors will interact with more of the healthcare team.
- **CAP:** CAP will likely follow tracer methodology to maintain deemed status under JCAHO. CAP is requiring labs to post directions on how to file complaints about laboratory operations.
- **CMS mandated no lab tests to support the quality conditions for three conditions:** heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia. Although lab tests are needed to diagnose these conditions, CMS did not specify lab tests as a quality condition. Failing hospitals will not receive full Medicare payment update for 2005.
- **HIPPA SECURITY RULE EFFECTIVE APRIL 21, 2005:** New rule focuses on how to protect health information from unauthorized access, change or transmission.
- **FDA:** Clinical laboratories have a legal obligation to report product or service complaints to the manufacturer. The manufacturer is obligated to report directly to the FDA. Physicians must report directly to the FDA. Monitor "LabSun" on the FDA website.

Awardees



Barbara Kraj
Clinical Laboratory
Scientist of the Year



Kathy Minish
Gloria Gilbert Award



Lester Pretlow
Contribution to the Profession



Catherine Weaver
Contribution to the Profession



Marshall Malone
Omicron Sigma



Virginia Roberts
Omicron Sigms

**ASCLS GEORGIA
2005-2006 OFFICERS**

President	Hassan Aziz
President-elect (2005-2006)	Lisa Anderson
Secretary (2005-2006)	Bonnie Gum
Treasurer (2005-2007)	Lester Pretlow
District I Director (2004-2006)	Barbara Russell
District II Director (2005-2007)	Michelle Butina
District III Director (2004-2006)	Jill Dennis
District IV Director (2005-2007)	Marshall Malone
District V Director (2004-2006) (Columbus/Americus/La Grange area)	Open
District VI Director (2005-2007)	Catherine Ontko
District VII Director (2004-2006)	Laura Stowers
District VIII Director (2005-2007)	Mi Hui Scales
District IX Director (2004-2006)	Virginia Roberts
Nominations Post #1 (2005-2007)	Ron Macy
Nominations Post #2 (2005-2007)	Ruby Dizon
Nominations Post #3 (2004-2006)	Darcell Thaxton
Nominations Post #4 (2004-2006)	Marshall Malone

As a member of ASCLS Georgia take a minute to welcome the new slate of officers. If you are a member and wish to participate in your professional organization, let your officers know you would like to help make ASCSL Georgia even better. Just send a message to aranne@mail.mcg.edu and give us a contact address.

July 26-30, 2005

TBA 2005

March 2-4, 2006

July 25-29, 2006

ASCLS Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL

Expo for Health Careers, ASCLS Learning for Life

Explorers Committee

Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference

San Antonio, TX

ASCLS Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL



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

ASCLS - GA

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