

THE ANALYZER

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Knowledge, Fun and all that Jazz! – Highlights of ASCLS 74th National Meeting

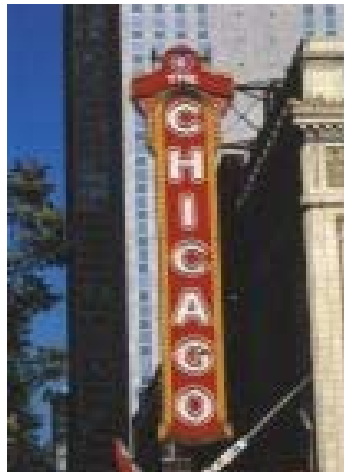
By Nadine Fydryszewski, MS, CLS (NCA)

The 74th Annual ASCLS Meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois from July 25-29, 2006. With the hotel in the heart of the theater district and the convention center on the banks of beautiful Lake Michigan, the venue was perfect for learning, and networking with our colleagues across the country. Delegates representing ASCLS-NJ membership were Deborah Josko, Jodie Prestholdt, Nadine Fydryszewski, Henry Ogedegbe, Jesse Guiles, Martha Smith, Fadwa Sumrein and Ginika Udodi. Other New Jersey members attending the meeting included Elaine Keohane, Ed Peterson, and Robin Krefetz. More than 600 CLS attended the meeting this year.

The meeting kicked off with an exciting keynote of improvisations on the day in a life of a CLS, performed by the Galileo Players. Their blend of science, sometimes brainy and absurd improv brought a lighthearted and hilarious note to the start of a hectic week. The annual Awards Ceremony followed the keynote, and distinguished members from across the country were honored for their dedication and contributions to the

organization and profession. Over 500 dedicated members of ASCLS were recognized with the Omicron Sigma award.

The Clinical Laboratory Expo featured over 550 companies, and was again, the largest clinical laboratory exhibition in the world. Industry displayed the



latest, innovative technologies related to laboratory diagnostics, and participants had the opportunity to do hands-on demos and interact with representatives and clients. All state affiliates were scheduled to “man” the ASCLS booth at the Expo. ASCLS-NJ delegates manned the booth on Tuesday, and had the opportunity to interact with fellow delegates, and field questions for non-ASCLS members interested in the organization, including international attendees.

The meeting provided numerous opportunities for continuing education in all laboratory medicine disciplines. ASCLS-NJ member, Nadine Fydryszewski served as Vice Chair of the program planning committee. This year’s scientific presentations focused on state of the art and cutting edge topics and were well received by those attending.

In addition to gaining new knowledge at the scientific sessions, the ASCLS-NJ delegation had responsibilities to attend various governance meetings throughout the week. These included sessions on licensure, student forum, issues updates, scientific assembly meetings, two sessions of the House of Delegates, president and president –elect seminars, leadership and membership development, official voting, and more. The ASCLS-NJ delegation worked very hard all week, from sun up to sun down – and then some! Most days began with governance meetings starting as early as 7AM, followed by educational sessions and more governance meetings in the evening. But, as the saying goes, “all work and no play....”.

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Jodie Prestholdt, BS, MT(ASCP), CT(ASCP)

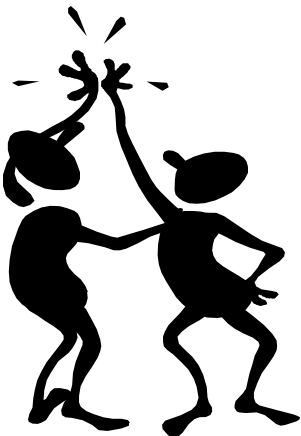
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Hello! My name is Jodie Prestholdt. It is a great honor to serve as your ASCLS-NJ President for 2006-2007! I'm proud to be working with such an amazing group of individuals that are energetic and eager to promote the clinical laboratory science profession! I joined ASCLS-NJ when I was a student in 1992 and have been a member ever since. It wasn't until 2001 that I became involved serving in various offices. What an incredible experience I have had so far and look forward to serving as your President this year. The leadership of this organization is truly concerned about the laboratory profession and volunteers their valuable time to make a difference. I strongly encourage you, the membership, to become involved either serving on committees or even expressing your opinions, concerns and ideas! We are actively addressing the laboratory shortage, reinvestigating licensure (especially how NY accomplished this), and involved in planning a variety of continuing education lectures. We are looking for new members and new ideas. I challenge each of you to recruit at least one new member this year. Together we can make a difference in our profession!

We have an exciting year planned for you and encourage each of you to take the first step in becoming involved. Attend your first board meeting; go to www.ascls.org and read about the mission of the society, and what ASCLS can do for you! I look forward to working with each of you and Thank You for your continual support of ASCLS and ASCLS-NJ.

Warmest Welcome to the Newest Members of ASCLS-NJ



Nuweira Ahmed
Keith Bellinger
Colleen Hinrichsen
Luz Angela Rosas
Viel Ty



Legislative symposium

By Susan Kusic, MPA, MT(ASCP)BB

This year's Legislative Symposium was held on March 27th and 28th in Washington, D.C. New Jersey was represented by two of our members- Jeryl Bischoff and Susan Kusic as well as ASCLS Vice President Elissa Passiment. This year's meeting was extremely successful with 146 in attendance from all around the country. This is the largest group thus far. The meeting was held in conjunction with CLMA and ASCP participants. Together, our reach to the legislators and getting our issues heard is improved.

The issues surrounded some of the same issues as last year with emphasis on the Personnel Shortage, Medicare Laboratory Reimbursement and Competitive Bidding as well as the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule which has reimbursement amounts dating back to 1984!

Surveys that have been performed reflect a personnel shortage that is more severe than the nurses or the pharmacists. Our industry will need 15,000 new practitioners through the year, but are only educating less than 5,000 per year. To this end, HR 1175 should be supported to encourage monetary assistance to programs and students in the field.

Competitive bidding provides incentives for laboratories to knowingly submit bids under their actual costs in order to meet or beat the competition to obtain Medicare business. We should all oppose this concept for the laboratory because a laboratory cannot maintain the lower cost structure and maintain the resources necessary to assure results are accurate, reliable and of good quality. This will also limit access to care and quality for those on Medicare.

Clinical Laboratory Services have been reimbursed utilizing a fee schedule that was put in place in 1984. Laboratories are currently being reimbursed less now than for that of five years ago (after accounting for inflation), while reimbursement under the Medicare program for other health services continue to grow.

Each person visited their Congressman and Senator to ask for their support for the Clinical Laboratory Sciences profession. We marched on the Hill and hopefully made a difference.

UMDNJ Student Update

By Ginika Udodi and Fadwa Mafarja

As the year comes to an end with the comprehensive exam behind us and the ASCP ahead, the students are also thinking about the future. With this come ideas of places to work, furthering their education, taking breaks, and starting or taking care of their families.

In 2006, the Medical Laboratory Sciences program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey graduated twelve full time students and four discipline specific students. 33% of the full time students will be furthering their education by either going to business, medical schools or entering the masters degree program. Everyone was fortunate enough to get jobs even before graduating at institutions such as Beth-Israe Hospital, UMDNJ, St. Michael's and Quest Diagnostics, while one person will be moving to California. In addition to work and school, 4 of the students are married and 2 out of the 4 have children and are looking forward to spending time with family.

The program was challenging yet rewarding and we are all looking forward to going out into the workforce to be the best we can be.

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Elaine Keohane

Spring Seminar 2007

General Chair: Jodie Prestholdt
Program Chair: Sue Kusic
Registration: Martha Smith
Glenda Heishman MT(ASCP) CLS(NCA)

Exhibits: TBA

Program Designer: Christie Tragno

Licensure Task Force Committee

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ATTN: Laboratory Professionals:

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Are you seeking skilled and quality oriented employees?
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ASCLS-NJ Spring Seminar-Spring House of Delegates Meeting

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Deborah Josko, Ph.D., CLS(M), SM(ASCP)

The ASCLS-NJ annual spring seminar was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa on the beautiful Jersey Shore in Long Branch, NJ. Approximately 170 participants including students and exhibitors attended, making this seminar one of the most successful events held by ASCLS-NJ! The day was filled with excellent speakers in all areas of the clinical laboratory including a session on "Point of Care Testing" and a student forum session on "The Do's and Don'ts of Resumes and Interviews". The keynote address was presented by Dr. Mary Ann McLane, Region II Director and Associate Professor in the Medical Technology Program at the University of Delaware entitled: "Patient Safety Issues: Where Does the Laboratory Professional Fit In?" This presentation was a real eye opener for some and was well received by all. The Spring House of Delegates Meeting was held during the lunch session where ASCLS-NJ President Deborah Josko conducted the board meeting. All sixteen exhibitors were recognized for their contribution to the society and greatly thanked for their generosity.

Deborah Josko also presented three "Keys to the Future" awards to Ginika Udodi, Fadwa Sumrein, and Sania Farooq for their role as NJ state student representatives. The Omicron Sigma Awards, given to individuals for their outstanding service to ASCLS-NJ, were also presented. The following individuals were recipients of this prestigious award: Nadine Fydryszewski, Jodie Prestholdt, Susan Kusic, Martha Smith, Joe Quillamor, Jane O'Reilly, Jeryl Bischoff, and Christie Tragno. ASCLS-NJ also sponsors two scholarships a year. A \$1000.00 and \$500.00 scholarship is given to a Medical Laboratory Science and Medical Laboratory Technician student, respectively. The winners of this year's scholarships were Ana Cadenilla, a MLS student from UMDNJ, and Susan Buckley, a MLT student from Mercer County College. Congratulations to both recipients and all winners of the ASCLS-NJ awards. A special "thanks" to all individuals who worked diligently throughout the year planning this meeting in order to provide clinical laboratory professionals with continuing education credits through excellent topics and quality speakers.



(pictured clockwise) Jodie Prestholdt, Elaine Keohane, Mary Ann McLane, Ed Peterson, Phyllis Valeri-Bruschini

(Continued from cover)

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By Nadine Fydryszewski, MS, CLS (NCA)

Opportunities to interact and network in a social setting were also provided. A First Timers reception was held on Tuesday evening. All attendees were invited to participate in the “meet and greet” at the opening Welcome Mixer on Wednesday evening. This included food, drink, music, dancing, and the annual E&R Silent Auction. ASCLS-NJ donated two piece of Lennox to the auction, which raises funds for scholarships. .The traditional TnT Boot Scootin’Boogie Bash, sponsored by the Texas and Tennessee societies provided some relaxation time on Thursday evening. Following this reception, the ASCLS-NJ delegation gathered for a group dinner that was both social and business. It is tradition that the state delegation gathers to network and discuss the issues that will come to the final house for vote. The delegation discussed the various Position Paper, including Licensure, and any issues slated for vote at the House of Delegates on Saturday. The Region II Caucus was held at 7AM on Thursday morning. Delegates and members attending the national meeting are invited to the Region II Caucus. Director MaryAnn McLane stressed our challenge this year of “Putting a Face to the Name”. Letting the public, and other health providers know who we are, what we do, and all we know, and how we can help and work together in the health care team.

The closing keynote speaker provided a lively interactive session on the importance of balancing work, family and keeping your sanity, with a good “take home” message and strategies to balance out our lives. The culmination of the week was the House of Delegates meeting on Saturday. ASCLS is a “grass roots” organization, in which the members take an active role in the governance. Unlike many organizations that are run by a Board of Directors, ASCLS Board takes direction from the members. It is at this House of Delegates meeting that the membership can voice their opinions, offer suggestions, and in a strict parliamentary procedure atmosphere forge the path for the organization and the profession.

The ASCLS-NJ Delegation worked hard, and most important, represented YOU, the ASCLS members of New Jersey. The society extends a “Thank You” and their appreciation to all the delegates who offered their time, talent, energies, and resources to represent New Jersey at this meeting.



Lake Michigan Shoreline



American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

An Affiliate of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

ASCLS-NJ

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New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1918

We are on the WEB!
www.ascls-nj.org

ASCLS-NJ BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE 2006-2007

September 14, 2006 :	February 15, 2007:
Time: 6:30 PM	Time: 6:30 PM (If needed)
Location: New Jersey Blood Services 167 New St. New Brunswick, NJ 08901	Location: TBA
October 18, 2006:	March 14, 2007:
Time: 5:30-7:30 PM	Time: 6:30 PM
Location: UMDNJ CAB Auditorium New Brunswick, NJ	Location: New Jersey Blood Service
November 15, 2006:	April
Time: 6:30 PM	TBA
Location: New Jersey Blood Services	Spring Seminar
December : No meeting	Location: TBA
January 10, 2007:	May 9, 2007:
Time: 6:30 PM	Time: 6:30 PM
Location: New Jersey Blood Services	Location: New Jersey Blood Services
	June
	TBA
	Leadership Conference
	Location: TBA