



ASCLS NATIONAL MEETING

Nadine Fydryszewski, MS, CLS(NCA), MT(ASCP)

The 73rd Annual ASCLS Meeting was held in Orlando, Florida from July 26-30, 2005. Delegates representing ASCLS-NJ membership were Deborah Josko, President; Nadine Fydryszewski, President-Elect (proxy); Elaine Keohane; Jesse Guiles, Edward Peterson, Linda Caltagirone. Other New Jersey members attending the meeting included Henry Ogededbe and Susan Mikorski.

The meeting kicked off with an exciting keynote speaker from the Disney Institute. The topic was "Leadership, Disney Style". The presentation focused on key leadership strategies to connect performance and accountability. Strategies for dealing with change, influencing those around you, involvement, values and behaviors was presented.

The annual Awards Ceremony followed the keynote. Over 520 dedicated members of ASCLS were recognized with the Omicron Sigma award. ASCLS-NJ members recognized with the Omicron Sigma Award received special ribbons to wear on their name badges. 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

presented at the national meeting. Her topic was "Arthropods and Anisakines: Parasites & Pests". A record audience of 95 people attended her presentation.

In addition to gaining new knowledge at these sessions, the ASCLS-NJ delegation had responsibilities to attend various governance meetings throughout the week. These included sessions on licensure, students 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



Representatives from ASCLS-NJ

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

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...". Opportunities to interact and network in a social setting were also provided.

Cont'd on page 3

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**Deborah Jasko**

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by! What an eventful year we had including a name change from NJSCLS to ASCLS-NJ!

ASCLS-NJ has engaged in a number of activities this year and I would like to take this opportunity to summarize what we have accomplished in the past year thanks to our dedicated leadership and members.

One of the goals our leadership established was increasing membership by 10%. In November 2004, the ASCLS-NJ membership was 213. As of July 2005 membership is at 254. We have increased our membership to 41 new members exceeding our 10% goal! We actually increased membership by 19%. Another goal was to establish a task force to investigate the feasibility of licensure in the state of New Jersey. Several members have volunteered to serve on this task force and are working diligently to bring this goal to fruition. Any additional volunteers are always welcome!

We offered several continuing education seminars such as the Fall Seminar in October 2004 and the Spring Seminar in April 2005. Both meetings were well attended and well received! Also, two ASCLS-NJ representatives attended Legislative Day held in Washington, D.C. in March 2005. They were very active on Capitol Hill and met with several representatives to discuss key laboratory issues. In addition, this year was the first time ASCLS-NJ participated in New Jersey's Super Science Weekend. Several representatives attended the two day event with hands-on activities and promoted the clinical laboratory science profession. Over 2000 participants were in attendance.

Our students also had a busy year! There was a fall student forum held in November 2004 with the largest number of participants in years! They also attended two management symposiums in May 2005 to educate them and prepare them for leadership roles in the workforce.

The ASCLS-NJ leadership plans on another active and successful year. We ask that each of you renew your membership at the end of July and become involved in your professional organization. We always welcome new members with new ideas as well existing members who want to become involved. I was honored this past year to be the President of this professional organization and look forward to serving in the capacity of President one more year! My sincere gratitude and thanks to the leadership and membership for all of your hard work and dedication throughout the years!

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Fall Seminar and House of Delegates Meeting

Microarrays: From Theory to Clinical Applications

Date: Thursday, October 20, 2005
Location: UMDNJ-Scotch Plains
 Room 330
Time: 5:00-8:30 PM
 (includes light buffet)



Cont'd from front cover-ASCLS National meeting

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 pieces of Lennox and a Coach Handbag to the auction, which raises funds for scholarships. The traditional TnT Boot Scootin'Boogie Bash, sponsored by the Texans 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

Equivalent Quality Control, Value of Clinical Laboratory Services in Health Care, Advanced practice: Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Science, and revision of the ASCL Mission and Vision Statements. All issues were slated for vote at the house 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 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 culmination of the week was the House of Delegates meeting on Saturday. Scheduled from 10:00 – 12:30, the meeting continued

until almost 2:30PM. 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.

SPRING SEMINAR

Martha M. Smith, MPA, MT(ASCP)

It was a lovely day in Woodbridge for our annual Spring Seminar entitled "Putting a Face to the Name – Clinical Laboratory Professionals Making a Difference in Health Care". Mary Ann McLane, PhD, the ASCLS Region II Director, presented a keynote address on exactly that subject. She asked the attendees "What does 'provide the face' mean to you?" and "How do we lab professionals provide our 'face'?" The interactive discussion was lively and enlightening. We all have to remember that the laboratory doesn't produce test results, the laboratorians working within the space do!

Beckman Coulter also sponsored the session on cardiac marker testing and contributions for awards were received from Ortho Clinical Diagnostics and the Department of Pathology at UMDNJ – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Our Society thanks all their contributions to our successful seminar.

The Spring Seminar is also the time when recognition is awarded to those members who worked so diligently to provide educational opportunities such as the Spring Seminar and Student Forums to their Society and non-member laboratory professionals. This year's ASCLS Omicron Sigma awards were

In all there were 16 sessions provided for our four main disciplines with 13 speakers as well as two sessions for phlebotomists. A few of the topics included Dr. McLane on guidelines for lipid, glucose, and TSH testing; Walter Hook on Factor Xa and low molecular weight heparin therapy; Dr. James Arking on herpes simplex virus; and Dr. Harold Kaplan on Blood Bank event reporting. 95 registrants participated and earned those PACE continuing education credits.



presented to Nadine Fydryszewski, Joe Quillamor, Keith Moreaux, Christie Tragno, Perla Simons, Martha Smith, Jodie Prestholdt, and Meena Rathee. The Omicron Sigma awardees are acknowledged for their service to the state society – they are the Presidential Honor Roll.

Key to the Future awards were presented to two student members: Adria Crescentini and Wael Hassan. The President's Special recognition Awards were presented to the following student members:

Our industry partners participated in our seminar through sponsoring speakers and/or displaying information at the vendor tables of their instruments, products, and services. There were representatives from Tri-State Hospital Supply Corporation, Becton-Dickinson, New York Blood Center, PRO Scientific Inc., Inova Diagnostics, Focus Technologies, Quest Diagnostics, IRIS International, Sysmex, Dada, and Abbott Diagnostics.

President Deborah Josko and student Heather Redona receiving the President's Special Recognition Award

Heather Redona, Steven Gleason, and Nish Patel.

The ASCLS-NJ was proud to present a \$1,000 scholarship to UMDNJ Medical Laboratory Scientist student Tiffany Murray and a \$500 scholarship to Mercer County College MLT student Marlene Alpern.

The Ortho Clinical Diagnostic sponsored Manager of the Year award was presented to Martha Smith of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.



ASCLS-NJ STUDENT FORUM

Heather Redona

Spring Seminar

The ASCLS-NJ annual spring seminar was held on April 13, 2005 at the Sheraton at Woodbridge Place Hotel in Iselin, NJ. Continuing education credits were available in all areas of the clinical laboratory including a student session. Mindful that the future in laboratory science is migrating towards molecular testing, the students requested a seminar on Molecular Diagnostic Procedures: Applications in the Clinical Laboratory. The speaker for this topic was Tao Hong, Ph.D. from Hackensack University Medical Center. The seminar was well received by all!

During the event, the MLS students sponsored a charity fundraiser and were able to raise \$400 for the *Children's Miracle Network*, the student's charity of choice.

During the Spring House of Delegates meeting, annual awards were given out. Several students were recipients this year. Adria Cresentini and Wael Hassan, the ASCLS-NJ co-student representatives, were awarded the "Key to the Future Award" for their outstanding performance this year. Tiffany Murray from UMDNJ was awarded the MLS Student Scholarship and Marlene Alpern from Mercer County Community College was awarded the MLT Student Scholarship. ASCLS-NJ President Deborah Josko presented the President's Special Recognition Award to MLS students Steven Gleason from Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Nishitkumar Patel from UMDNJ, and Heather Redona from UMDNJ for their outstanding contribution to the society this year. Congratulations to all students on their outstanding achievements and service!

Student Management Seminar

On May 6 and May 13, 2005, the Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) students from Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Morristown Memorial, Monmouth Medical Center, and the MLS and Cytotechnology students from UMDNJ, were in attendance at the two-part ASCLS-NJ Student Management Symposia held at Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Neptune, NJ.

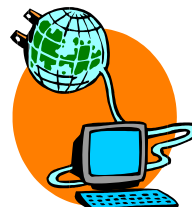
On May 6, 2005, Elissa Passiment, executive vice president of ASCLS, discussed current health care trends relating to laboratory practice. She discussed the future of MLS professionals, how the health care system needs improvement, and the shift of acute to chronic preventative care.

On May 13, 2005, Edward Peterson MBA, MT (ASCP), CLS (NCA), laboratory manager at Shore Memorial Hospital, Somers Point NJ, provided insight into management techniques. He emphasized the functions of administration, leadership styles, management finance and accounting, interviewing skills and being the interviewee, along with other topics.

On behalf of the students in attendance of the management seminars, we would like to take this opportunity to officially thank Elissa Passiment, Edward Peterson, and Perla Simmons, MPA, BSMT (ASCP)SH, this years ASCLS-NJ Student Spring Seminar Coordinator, and faculty in attendance of the Symposia- Dr. Jesse Guiles and Joann Rittersbach. As for the Spring Seminar special thanks to Tao Hong Ph.D. , President of ASCLS-NJ, Deborah Josko, former president Nadine Fydryszewski, and the rest of the leadership committee that made the students' participation possible. The students greatly appreciate the opportunity to become involved in their professional organization!



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



American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-New Jersey
2005-2006 Leadership Roster

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Education & Seminar Task Force

Fall Seminar 2005

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Elaine Keohane

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Leadership Development Chair:
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Joe Quillamor

Scholarship Committee Chair:
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Awards Committee Chair
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Spring Seminar 2006

General Chair:
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Jeryl Bischoff

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Glenda Heishman MT(ASCP) CLS(NCA)

Exhibits:
Meena Rathee

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**Spring Seminar & Expo
House of Delegates Meeting**

“CE by the Sea”

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2006
Location: Ocean Place Resort & Spa
Long Branch, NJ
Time: 9:00 AM—3:30 PM

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!!**

Join us at the Jersey Shore for a day full of

- Educational session
- Industry exhibits

- Employment exchange
- Networking with colleagues



Bioterrorism and the Clinical Laboratorian**The Role of the CLS-Microbiologist**

FREE – On-line Continuing Education Activity!

Offered by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Target Audience:

This activity is designed for clinical laboratory professionals.

Course Code: 05MCG21E**CE Credit:** 3 contact hours (0.3 CEU) ASCLS P.A.C.E. and ASCP(CMLE)**Statement of Need:**

The events that took place in the United States in Fall of 2001 had a profound effect on the entire country and the world. The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, and the subsequent anthrax bioterrorism attack, brought to the forefront the world's vulnerability to massive acts of terror. The clinical laboratory scientist working in the microbiology laboratory played an extremely important role in the anthrax attack through isolation and identification of the pathogen. This attack brought to light the need to educate the public and health care professionals about agents of biological and chemical warfare.

The role of the clinical laboratory scientist working in the microbiology laboratory is key in suspected outbreaks of a bioterrorism event. Until the microbiologist identifies the pathogen, other health care providers don't know if they are dealing with the agent. They may suspect, and have good clinical clues to suspect the agent, but definitive identification comes from the microbiologist. Thus, the clinical microbiologist is the gate keeper, the final word, and plays a key role as a first responder in suspected bioterrorism events. The role of the laboratorian is multi-faceted. Clinical laboratory professionals must know:

- Your lab's position within the Laboratory Response Network
- Procedures and protocols
- Safety precautions
- When to refer isolates to a higher level lab
- When to set up work in isolation
- Where the next level labs are located in the geographical area
- How to appropriately package samples for transport to another lab

The goal of this activity is to educate clinical laboratory professionals working in Sentinel Laboratories of the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) about their role as first responders in a bioterrorism event or suspected BT event.

Grantor Acknowledgement: The Continuing Education credits are supported by grant funding to the UMDNJ-Center for Continuing Outreach and Education (CCOE) from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration Grant No. T01HP01407.

For more information and to enroll on-line go to:**<http://ccoe.umdj.edu/online/em/05MCG21E/index.htm>**

LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM 2005 UPDATE

Jeryl Bischoff, BS MT(ASCP)H, CLS(NCA)

On March 21st and 22nd 2004 Susan Kusic, MPA, MT(ASCP)BB, Jeryl Bischoff B.S. MT(ASCP)H, CLS(NCA) and University of Delaware Medical Technology Student Patty Ambrosio attended the ASCLS and CLMA Legislative Symposium in Washington DC. The symposium is a two day event which consists of a "Guide to Lobbying" workshop followed by a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill. This year over 40 states were represented.

The first day workshop topics discussed were ASCLS and CLMA positions on competitive bidding, personnel shortage, reimbursement issues, and Medicare reform. Other information was presented about communicating with the government representatives and ways to discuss these issues with their staff effectively. Opportunities were given for coaching and practicing for the Capitol Hill visits the following day.

Prior to the dates of the Conference, Susan, Jeryl and Scott Aikey, a fellow New Jersey ASCLS member arranged appointments with member aides representing their own districts. The appointments were with Senator's Jon Corzine and Frank Lautenberg and Congressmen Rodney Freylinghuysen, Mike Ferguson and Jim Saxton.



Susan Kusic and Jeryl Bischoff

All 5 members were visited and the following issues were brought to their attention.

1. **Competitive Bidding for Laboratory services:** Competitive Bidding will likely result in multiple complex fee schedules. It will cause difficulty in referring testing and increase the costs for laboratory claims. With this in affect there will be a strong incentive for laboratories to submit "low ball" bids to obtain contracts. Laboratory services will be operating without the resources necessary to assure high quality testing and physicians will be restricted to which laboratories they wish to choose for their patients. An oversight committee has been established by congress. The laboratory would like to consulted d uring the committee discussions.

2. **Laboratory Personnel Shortage:** The members were asked to support bill HR 1175 "*The Medical Laboratory Personnel Shortage Act of 2005*". This bill offers a way to provide funding for education and training of Allied Health Professionals via scholarships and grants.

3. **Clinical Laboratory fee Schedule:** ASCLS asked for support with Medicare Laboratory reimbursement fees. Members were asked to support a Consumer Price increase to the fee schedule and also asked if cuts are necessary, for Congress to look at other aspects of healthcare for future funding other than the Laboratory Fee Schedule. Laboratories cannot afford any more cuts to the fee schedule. Currently ASCLS is discussing changes and alternatives to the current schedule that will be more acceptable and realistic. Meetings with the legislative aides lasted around 20 minutes. Handouts or "leave behinds" were given to each of them. Upon their return to New Jersey, Susan, Jeryl and Scott completed informational worksheets summarizing the discussions and sent them to the ASCLS lobbyist. He will compile the information and perform follow up with the aides.

Providing a real face and information about how the actual laboratorian is affected in their own districts by these issues gives your representative a personal perspective.

You can make a difference!



ASCLS-NJ

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

An Affiliate of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory

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

WELCOME TO THE COLONY



Pilar Brahim
Melba Buco
Beverly Faust
Ruth Glickman

Ibsen Montalvan
Carmen Quisumbing
Hany Shenonda
Joana Terralheiro
La Vonnia Wilson
Carol Wright

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS to Jodie and Eric Prestholdt on the birth of their daughter "Jayden" and to Elaine Keohane on the birth of her granddaughter "Reilly Nicole Keohane"

CONGRATULATIONS to our President, Deborah Josko on obtaining her PhD!

Calendar of Events

Event: Board meeting
Place: UMDNJ-Scotch Plains
Date: 9/14/2005 6:30 PM

Special Event: 2005 Fall Seminar/House of Delegates
Place: UMDNJ-Scotch Plains
Date: 10/20/2005

Event: Board Meeting
Place: NY Blood Center/NJ Blood Services
New Brunswick
Date: 11/9/2005

Event: Board meeting
Place: UMDNJ-Scotch Plains
Date: 12/14/2005 6:30 PM

Event: Board Meeting
Place: NY Blood Center/NJ Blood Services, New Brunswick
Date: 01/18/2006

Event: Board Meeting
Place: UMDNJ-Scotch Plains
Date: 02/15/2006