



# ASCLS=Idaho **FOCUS**



## Licensure – What’s In It For Me?

Winter 2006

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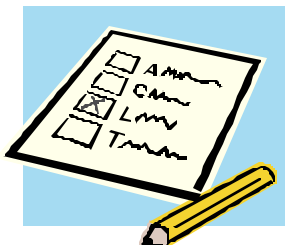
State licensure for clinical laboratory personnel has long been a goal of many in our profession. Eleven states require a state license to practice clinical laboratory science. Many others are at various stages in their pursuit of licensure, and just last year, New York passed a licensure bill. They are in the process of writing the regulations that will spell out the standards for holding a license in that state. Many ASCLS – Idaho members have long been interested and actively involved in seeing if Idaho could become a state that requires licensure, but many of our newer members and those new to the profession, wonder about the importance of all their work.

I believe the most important benefit of licensure is increased patient safety. We all know of instances where an inadequately trained laboratorian has placed a patient in jeopardy by making the type of laboratory errors that well-trained and educated professionals are much less likely to make. Licensure requires a benchmark level of education and training, as well as national certification, which ensure at least entry-level competency. Most licensure laws also require verification of *ongoing* competency, usually in the form of continuing education credits. Working with licensed personnel gives everyone the confidence that high quality laboratory results are the gold standard.

There are also professional reasons to hold a license. Many of us have been involved in health care situations where licensed professionals are allowed certain privileges or status, while unlicensed personnel are not allowed to participate, the assumption being that unlicensed health care workers have less education and training than those with a license and are not true profession-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Call for Nominations



ASCLS-ID members!

It is time to start thinking of members you would like to see in office for 2006-2007.

If you already have ideas, email them to your Nominations Chair, Jenny Lee, at [jennymt@msn.com](mailto:jennymt@msn.com)

The ASCLS-Idaho FOCUS is published quarterly and is made available to all ASCLS-Idaho members in electronic format. Rights to edit for content and length of materials are retained by ASCLS-Idaho. Send all inquiries to the Editor at [band1@mindspring.com](mailto:band1@mindspring.com). All ASCLS-Idaho members are invited to submit articles for publication.

# Licensure – What’s In It For Me?



(Continued from page 1)

als. A license says to all that you have met the standards to practice the profession, and that the work is important and difficult enough that not just anyone should be allowed to do it. All clinical laboratory professionals know that the vast body of knowledge required to practice clinical laboratory science requires extensive education and training, as well as the ability to think analytically and critically.



Some may say that there will be too many problems created if licensure is required. What happens to those currently practicing that don't meet the requirements for a license? Licensure bills typically have a "grandfather clause" that allows all those practicing at the time the licensure bill is implemented to be granted a license. What about those moving into the state from other states that don't require a license? Typically anyone meeting the requirements for a license is allowed a temporary license that allows them to practice until the permanent license is granted. What about the shortage of laboratory workers – won't licensure just make the problem worse? With the grandfather clause that allows everyone currently working to continue working, there would not be an immediate problem. Long-term, shortages have not historically been any more serious in states that require licensure than in those that don't. How can licensure guarantee that perfect lab results will be the norm 100% of the time? No one is perfect and even those with licenses occasionally makes mistakes. But it has been shown time and again that with the proper education and training, errors are much, much less likely.

On a personal level, will it cost me a little more money, and be just one more thing to remember to do every year or two? Yes, there are fees associated with holding a license, and yes, I will have to have several "sticky notes" to help me remember to get that license renewed. But, to me, the value of holding a license from Idaho, saying that I am competent and qualified to perform laboratory testing, and can be considered a critical member of the professional health care team, is worth every penny, and worth a whole pad of those sticky notes.

What's in it for you? Pride in your profession, confidence in the quality of work performed in every lab in Idaho, increased patient safety, and recognition as a critical member of a professional health care team are all advantages of holding a license. I encourage you to support licensure efforts anywhere and in any way you can.

Debbie Shell

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# President's Message



"Ask not what your country can do for you" ...Sound familiar? While trying to recruit new members, I am struck with the realization that some appear to be shopping for a bonus buy; mathematically calculating how many dollars per CE will this cost or what goodies come with the cost of registration. How can you put a price on the future of our profession? As intangible as seems, it is because of the professional organizations that our profession is more than an on-the-job training to assist the pathologists. I was reading an article in NAACLS News that gives an historical look at how the CLS/CLT evolved. It is only because several interested and motivated people in the field united to form professional organizations to define, standardize, and certify technicians and technologists.. Where will the future take us? That depends on the answer to the question *"What can you do for your professional society and the future of your profession?"*



it

I am looking forward to part 2 in the next issue of NAACLS News to fill in between 1939 and now! The future is ours to determine!

Barbara Frankovich  
ASCLS-Idaho President

## Mark you calendars and plan to attend!!!!

### "Clinical Laboratory Scientists, the Pulse of Today's Healthcare".

The ASCLS-ID Spring Convention will be held on April 27-29, 2006 in Pocatello, Idaho, at Idaho State University.

Arrangements have been made with Idaho State University for the convention to be held at the Student Union

Building. Speakers are now being contacted and scheduled. More information about workshops, registration, and accommodations will be announced soon and posted on our website.

Please contact Laura Brattain or Karen Dixon-Hoskins if you have any questions.

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## Changing the World, One Step at a Time

Wouldn't it be great to change the world? How about influence a profession? Or maybe affect the lives in your community? It can happen, but as with all things, it happens one step at a time.

### *What is the mentoring program?*

The ASCLS-Idaho mentoring program matches active practitioners with students to help create a learning environment within the profession. By matching a working clinical laboratory scientist with a student in the CLS program at Idaho State University, students get to network with and learn from "those in the know," and professionals get to influence the future of their profession.

### *What's involved?*

Being a mentor is not a huge commitment of time. In most cases, about 45 minutes a month is just fine. If the student and the mentor live relatively close, it would be beneficial if a few face-to-face meetings occurred throughout the year, but such meetings need not be lengthy. Such meetings may include a tour of the mentor's lab or networking together at the spring conference,



For the most part, being a mentor simply means making oneself available to answer questions of the student from time to time. Much of the relationship can be conducted via email.

(Continued on next page )



**IDSCLS has officially changed to ASCLS-Idaho!**

We are still looking for logo design ideas. Please send your ideas or designs to the Focus Editor at

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## What does one have to do?

To become a mentor, all you have to do is ask. No forms to fill out, no official training is needed. All you need is a willingness to “be there” for a CLS student. In ASCLS-Idaho, the mentoring program is managed by the membership chair. This person provides you with a mentoring “guidelines” sheet for making the most of your mentoring relationship, makes mentoring matches, and is there for you—the mentor—should you have any questions.

This year’s membership chair is Lorena Bobinski. You can reach her at [lobobi@cableone.net](mailto:lobobi@cableone.net), or by phone at (208) 375-5048.

We’ll be looking for additional mentors to start in late summer, so why not consider it? Influence your profession—you may even help change the world.

## Don’t Forget the List Serve!

A great way to communicate with the whole state society. **Don’t miss out!**

To subscribe, log on to:  
[http://asclsregionviii.org/mailman/listinfo/idscls-connections\\_asclsregionviii.org](http://asclsregionviii.org/mailman/listinfo/idscls-connections_asclsregionviii.org)

All you need to provide is your email address and create a password. You can save the address you receive in your address book or favorites list, then just click on it and write your email message. Your message will be then sent to all who have subscribed to the list serve. I hope to see many people take advantage of this opportunity in the future.

## Recruit a new member



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

*Every laboratory professional deserves the opportunities of the*

**VOICE-VALUE-VISION**

*of ASCLS membership!*

**We all benefit when ASCLS grows!**

Check our website, [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org), for additional details and rules applying to this campaign



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY

## 2nd Annual State Legislative Day

St. Luke's RMC Owyhee Room at the Anderson Center Boise

March 9th, 2006

Topics include Licensure for Clinical Laboratory Personnel, National Legislative Issues, State Legislative Issues, and other Related Topics

Lunch and Continuing Education Credits Included in \$25 Registration Fee.

For more information, contact Debbie Shell at dmssq@allidaho.com



## Legislative Symposium

Washington D.C.

March 27-28, 2006

Before you begin a thing, remind yourself that difficulties and delays quite impossible to foresee are ahead . . . You can only see one thing clearly and that is your goal. Form a mental vision of that and cling to it through thick and thin.

-Kathleen Norris



The ASCLS-ID Spring Convention

April 27-29, 2006

Idaho State University

Pocatello, Idaho

## Leadership Training Seminar

June 3, 2006

Hagerman, Idaho

Open to All Members of ASCLS-Idaho; A Day Of Networking, Learning, and Fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Watch for Updates

Mark Your Calendars Now!



*The more we do, the more we can do; the more busy we are, the more leisure we have.*

*-William Hazlitt*

## Intermountain States Seminar 2006

Sept 20-23 2006 with Montana Hosting.

"Catch your Limit."

[www.imss.8m.org](http://www.imss.8m.org)





The holidays are past us, the children are back in school, and now our lives can get back to some semblance of order. I thought I would catch everyone up on the happenings in ASCLS and Region VIII.

**CLEC:** The Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC) is almost upon us, and once again the registration numbers are excellent. San Antonio will host the conference on March 2 – 4, and a “Fiesta of Ideas” will be shared and enjoyed by all.

**Legislative Symposium:** ASCLS members have been taking issues to Congress since 1989, and March 27 – 28 are the dates for the annual Legislative Symposium being held at the Westin Grand in Washington, D.C. This is a wonderful opportunity for grass roots folks to learn about the issues affecting laboratorians, and to lobby their own Members of Congress. I hope every state will send at least one delegate, as happened last year.

**Region VIII Council Meeting:** The Spring Region VIII Council meeting will be held the evening of April 7<sup>th</sup> in Salt Lake City. This will provide all the state presidents an opportunity to share their achievements and future plans, and to learn what other states are doing. Also, information from the ASCLS Board of Directors meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> will be discussed.

**Leadership Session:** This year, we have a wonderful opportunity to attend a Leadership Session on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> in Salt Lake City. Barbara Hughes, an expert in the field (and the wife of ASCLS Membership Chair, J.R. Constance), is conducting a session on *Strategies for Being a Successful ASCLS Leader*, and P.A.C.E. credit will be given. Everyone in Region VIII is invited to attend; just let me know so I can plan accordingly.

**Spring Meetings:** Plans are well underway for all of the state Spring Educational Meetings, beginning with Utah (April 6-7 in Ogden), Montana (April 19-22 in Great Falls), Idaho (April 27-29 in Pocatello) and finishing with Colorado/Wyoming (May 10-12 in Longmont, CO). These are wonderful opportunities to network with colleagues, see the newest vendor offerings, and learn, learn, learn. As the Region VIII Director, I plan on attending each meeting, so I hope I will have a chance to visit with many of you there, and hear your ideas and concerns.

As you can see, spring is a very busy time for everyone, including ASCLS. I hope everyone will try to make it a priority to find a little time to attend an ASCLS activity – it will be a great return on your investment.

Susie Zanto, Region VIII Director

## Calendar of Events

[March 2-4, 2006](#)

CLEC – San Antonio, TX

[March 9, 2006](#)

2nd Annual State Leg Day  
Boise, ID

[March 27-28, 2006](#)

Legislative Symposium  
Washington, D.C.

[April 8, 2006](#)

Region VIII Spring Council  
Meeting – Salt Lake City, UT

[April 23 – 29, 2006](#)

National Medical Laboratory  
Professionals Week

[April 27-29, 2006](#)

ASCLS-Idaho  
Spring Convention  
Pocatello, ID

[June 3, 2006](#)

Leadership Retreat  
Hagerman, ID

[July 25-29, 2006](#)

74th ASCLS Annual Meeting  
Chicago, IL

Once you say  
you're going to  
settle for second,  
that's what  
happens to you.

-John F. Kennedy



The spring issue deadline is April 15th

Please submit articles and pictures to Brian Anderson at  
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With the development of our electronic newsletter and our website, we have been able to decrease printing and mailing costs. If you prefer to continue to receive The Focus by mail, please send a written or email request to the editor.