



FOCUS

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I love this time of year. The weather is starting to cool down and fall is in the air. This also signals the start of a new ASCLS-Idaho year!!!

I would like to start my message off by saying a very special thank you to all of you, the members of ASCLS Idaho!!! Without your continued membership and dedication, our society would not exist.

As most of you may know ASCLS is struggling to maintain membership, not only here in Idaho, but nationally as well. Our numbers are declining at an alarming rate. This is where I ask you all for a favor: Please share why you are a member of ASCLS-Idaho with a coworker, new professional or student this year. The best way to recruit is to share your story. Remember, every member makes a difference.

Membership has many benefits, one of which includes our ability to stay politically updated on matters that impact our profession. ASCLS Idaho took 1st place nationally this year in PAC (Political Action Committee) contributions. I am so proud of our membership's generosity to help our efforts on Capitol Hill. Way to go Idaho!!!

I am really looking forward to this year as president. We have an amazing board representing our state. Our first meeting was held in September, and we started planning some great events for the rest of this year. Please check out our new and updated website –going LIVE October 1st–for all the up-to-date information.

If you are excited about our society and want to stay connected, then I personally invite you to our ASCLS-Idaho activities this fall. We will be kicking off our fall festivities with Intermountain State Seminar (IMSS) October 1-4 at Jackson Hole, WY. Then look out for an ASCLS-Idaho face-to-face board meeting, November 1st in Twin Falls, ID. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Next, grab your rake; we are doing some community service with Rake Up Boise November 15th.

Hope to see you all there!

Melissa



IMSS
October 1-4

BOARD
MEETING
November 1

RAKE UP BOISE
November 15

BOARD
MEETING
January 22

LEGISLATIVE
SYMPOSIUM
March 7

ASCLS-ID SPRING
CONVENTION
April 16-18

NATIONAL MEETING
July 28-Aug 1



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

[IMSS](#) is right around the corner, [October 1st through 4th in Jackson Hole](#) and it's not too late to register...if you act NOW! Registrations received on or before September 24th will not be assessed a late fee so don't wait. [Click on this LINK](#) to take care of your registration right now! Online registration makes it so simple to register with just a few clicks of your mouse but if you still like licking the envelope, make sure [your registration](#) is postmarked by the 24th to avoid the late fee. But...if you are like me and procrastination is your game plan, never fear, late and on-site registration will be available. See you there!

"For the past 51 years, the Intermountain States Seminar and Exhibitors Expo has been a staple for the laboratory professional"

AMERICAN RED CROSS

"Boston was forever changed April 15, 2013. Tragedy morphed an already resilient community into a stronger one. The American Red Cross has proudly played a part in that transformation. The story of the Boston Marathon Bombing response cannot be told without mentioning those who supported the Red Cross. [The Red Cross](#) had all it needed to support operations financially, and an adequate blood supply to support rescue efforts."



[Article from redcross.org](#)

THE BOSTON MARATHON DISASTER: ONE LABORATORY'S RESPONSE

As President-Elect, I was able to attend the recent [ASCLS National Meeting](#) in Chicago as one of the delegates representing Idaho. It was an amazing experience. I was able to talk with Clinical Laboratory Scientists from all across the U.S. We shared stories of the rewards and challenges we all face as professionals during a changing time in health care.

My favorite speaker was [Dr. Walter Dzik, MD](#). He is Co-Director of the Blood Transfusion Services at Massachusetts General Hospital. He gave a wonderful key note about [The Boston Marathon Disaster](#) from the laboratory and hospital perspective. He was working that day. He talked about what worked well and why their disaster training helped so much with this tragedy.

One of his blood bankers had the idea of packing 4 O pos per cooler. Each cooler was numbered. Each unit had a preprinted yellow card. The tallest resident in the ER had all the coolers. When a patient needed a cooler, they handed him the patient's blood with the MRN on it and he gave them the cooler. He knew which MRN went with which cooler number. It worked very well as did their large white board. They kept track of each patient's name, MRN, blood type and the OR room they were in.

Three people were killed at the scene. Two hundred and sixty were injured. The injured went to twenty seven local hospitals. There were fourteen limb amputations. At the three largest trauma centers, a total of 255 units of blood products were transfused to include packed cells, FFP and platelets. All of the injured survived. He gave a lot of praise to all the laboratory professionals who all worked so hard and relied on their years of professional experience to make it work so well.

Article submitted by Diana Thompson

THE TRUTH ABOUT SUCCESS

This year the closing keynote speaker at the [ASCLS Annual Meeting](#) was [Garrison Wynn](#). His speech provided insight into what drives people and how laboratorians can communicate with others more effectively. These communication skills are critically important as we move into an era where laboratorians must advocate for effective use of testing dollars. Mr. Wynn is the author of the best-selling book [The Real Truth About Success: What the Top 1 Percent Do Differently, Why They Won't Tell You, and How You Can Do It Anyway](#).

His first advice was to focus more on choosing what is best for the team rather than focusing on "being right". When you disagree with someone, a little tact can go a long way. Rather than immediately labeling the other person's perspective as "wrong" take the time to hear what they are saying. It is okay to disagree, but it is still important to listen to them. He suggests using the phrase, "I disagree with you, but I am willing to listen to you."

Listening to others builds trust which is critical to teamwork. If others trust you, then they will be willing to listen to you and work with you. Trust takes not only time, but compassion and competence to build. It is important to everyone to feel heard.

After taking the time to listen to someone, there are three possible outcomes. You may still disagree with them, but understand where they are coming from. You may find out that you have more in common than you thought. I often find that as I talk to someone we actually are in agreement on most points and are simply expressing our opinions differently. The third possibility is that they compromise their position and begin to agree with you more.

Another important reason to listen is that everyone knows something we don't. His example was a well-educated person being lost in the country. Despite how much education we have, if we don't know how to get where we are going, it will not be possible to accomplish our goals. This is important to remember as health care becomes ever more complex and fractionated. Often, healthcare professionals have a very specific and narrowly defined scope of practice. As laboratorians, we have the knowledge to help many other healthcare workers find the right path to care for their patients. We have to listen to the needs of other departments. We also have to be a persistent voice in guiding laboratory test orders.

Article submitted by Stephanie Wyler



The Idaho Delegation enjoys Chicago both indoors and out

DON'T FALL BY THE WAYSIDE

It's that time of year again...the leaves are falling...and so are our membership numbers!

This is the time of year when our membership numbers take a big hit because so many members forget to renew their membership. It's understandable and can happen to anyone. Your ASCLS membership expires July 31st which means that while you were busy playing in the summer sun, your ASCLS membership quietly expired and you...or somebody you know... has just joined the ranks of the lapsed members. Don't let this happen to you or somebody you love. Avoid becoming a lapsed member by renewing your ASCLS membership today.

But never fear...we LOVE lapsed members because they can now become ACTIVE members! Just go to [ASCLS.org](https://www.ascls.org) to [renew your membership](#) today and get off that lapsed list and back into full active participation in ASCLS.



• What is Rake Up Boise?

Over the past 28 years, with the help of approximately 7,000 volunteers each year, Neighborhood Housing Services has organized one of the largest community events in the state of Idaho, Rake Up Boise™. Each year, nearly 700 yards are raked and winterized for our senior and disabled neighbors who cannot perform the work themselves.

• When is Rake Up Boise?

Saturday, November 15, 2014

• When is the application deadline for volunteers?

October 24, 2014

• Where do I register as a volunteer?

Follow this [LINK](#) and register online before the deadline.

• What supplies does Rake Up Boise supply for the teams?

We provide the leaf bags. Teams will need to bring their own rakes, gloves, etc.

• What time is Rake Up Boise?

There is no set time to begin raking. It is the team captain's responsibility to set the time of raking and notify the resident. Most teams rake in the morning.

RAKE UP BOISE

It's time for ASCLS-Idaho to get out of the lab and into the sunshine where we can meet and interact with the community and let them know who we are. Let's be honest, most of our interactions with the public occur while we have a needle in our hands. Not the most comfortable of situations. Perhaps we should give them an opportunity to see us with something less threatening ...say, a rake?

Our president, Melissa Dumoulin, has organized an opportunity for us to do just that. She has arranged for ASCLS-Idaho to join in the annual [Rake Up Boise](#) campaign sponsored by the Neighborhood Housing Services. The actual Rake Up will be held Saturday, November 15. We will join hundreds of other volunteers to help rake up the yards of our senior and disabled citizens.

Melissa has already volunteered ASCLS-Idaho to participate in this community event but now we need YOU to volunteer to help ASCLS-Idaho achieve this goal. [ASLCS-Idaho has a unique link to register as a volunteer. If you would like to participate you must register online as a volunteer by October 24th.](#) Further information about when and where we will be meeting will be delivered to you electronically at a future time. Bring your rakes...bring your smiles and let's Rake Up Boise!

STUDENT BENEFITS

Students, welcome to ASCLS! Congratulations on pursuing your new career as a Medical Laboratory Scientist and joining the [American Society of Clinical Laboratory Scientists](#).

As you embark on your new journey, here are a few helpful things to keep in mind as your workload increases. Be sure to designate personal and family time. Also, it is important to keep a balanced diet and exercise regularly. As we know, the MLS program is pretty intense and it is easy to try and study every free chance you get but try to keep everything in balance to reduce stress.

With that said, another important thing is to focus on your career ahead. First, take advantage of all the opportunities offered to you through

ASCLS-Idaho. As students, you have the chance to work at health fairs and that will not only help you as a student, but as a working professional. There are a few other events that would also benefit you as a student: [Rake Up Boise](#) (a chance to put a face on the lab), Leg Day in March (a definite must), the Spring Convention in April (which provides opportunities to get involved and volunteer), and the Scientific Assembly (which is a great chance to show off a little bit). Finally, try job shadowing which will give you a realistic feel for the job.

These are just a few of the many opportunities and benefits offered to you this coming year, so be sure and TAKE ADVANTAGE of ASCLS-Idaho!

Article submitted by Michael Berenger

THE ASCLS BODY OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE PURSUIT OF LICENSURE FOR LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS

The 2014 ASCLS House of Delegates approved an updated version of the [Body of Knowledge](#), a document commonly used by educators and managers to “define the identity of clinical laboratory professionals (phlebotomy, CLT, CLS) in their relationships to other health professionals, to patients and to the public.” Performance objectives for all levels of practice are useful in developing job descriptions, determining training and continuing education needs, and designing an educational program’s curriculum.

These are the most common uses for the Body of Knowledge. However, an additional advantage of having a [clearly defined scope of practice](#) is to aid states in



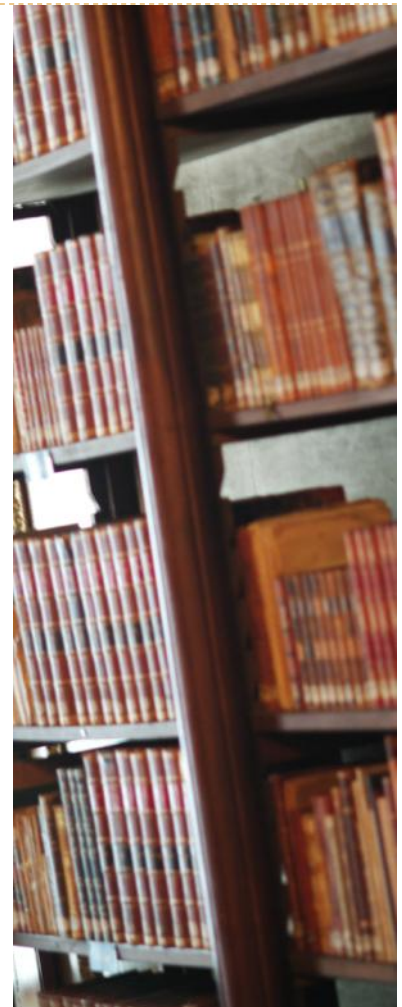
“The Body of Knowledge may help convince our legislators that licensure is essential to safeguarding our profession.”

the pursuit of licensure for laboratory professionals. One of the hallmarks defining a job category as a profession is that the profession has a unique body of knowledge. We certainly have work that is unique among healthcare professionals, and although some laboratory testing is being performed by other healthcare professionals (glucoses by nurses, cholesterol by pharmacists), the vast majority of laboratory testing is performed by laboratory professionals. A more significant problem is that only 12 states require a license to practice our profession.

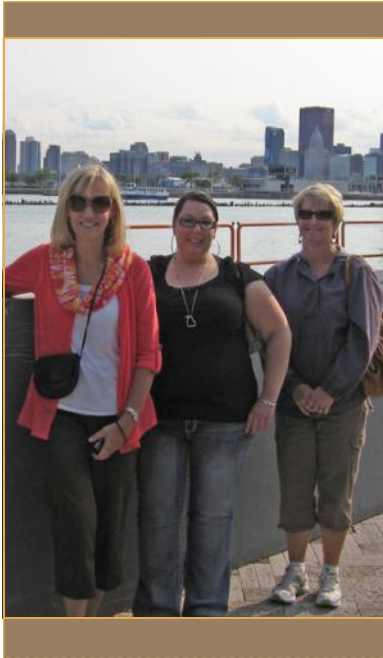
Well-defined Scope of Practice and Body of Knowledge documents are important to prove to legislators, hospitals administrators, lobbyists, and the general public that extensive education, training, and knowledge are absolutely imperative in safe and high quality laboratory testing. If every laboratory could show the Scope of Practice and Body of Knowledge documents to legislators touring laboratories, and discuss with them the vast amount of knowledge that is required to practice our profession, it could help convince them that only highly trained and educated professionals should be performing laboratory tests.

These documents are available from ASCLS, and for laboratories and educational programs wishing to purchase copies, they are available at the [ASCLS online store](#), with the updated version of the Body of Knowledge available sometime this fall.

All laboratories should have these documents available for developing job descriptions, for determining training and education needs, and for demonstrating to hospital administrators the value of hiring well-educated and trained laboratory professionals. An added bonus would be to use the Body of Knowledge to convince our legislators that licensure is essential to safeguarding our profession by ensuring that only certified, educated and well-trained professionals are practicing our profession.



Article submitted by Debbie Shell



SIMPLY AMAZING

The ASCLS National Convention in Chicago this year was awesome. I wish that all ASCLS members could attend a National Meeting. I cannot express what the meeting and experience are like. It is simply amazing what ASCLS is doing for you, the members, all year long. There are so many members giving of their time and talents to promote our profession.

The Expo with Vendors is just something you have to experience. Wall-to-wall vendors in a space bigger than 2 football fields. It is almost impossible to get to all the vendors in the time they have allotted for visiting. The classes that were available to us were very up-to-date and right on the money with current concerns and topics. I do have to add a little about Chi-

cago. I was very impressed. I felt safe there and the downtown area was very beautiful.

Thank you for letting me serve as your President this past year. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you and our Idaho delegation at the National Convention. The Board of Directors worked very hard this past year, and I want to thank them all for their time and efforts.

ASCLS-Idaho will continue to be amazing this coming year. Melissa Dumoulin, our new President, is already doing a great job. Please get out there and give her your support!!

Article submitted by Michele Harris

“ASCLS is not strong for me, it is strong because of me. I am the one that makes the difference...and so do you.”



*Face to Face interactions
may seem a little out-dated
but they are still the best
way to network*

KEEPING IT OLD SCHOOL

Now days if you say “social networking” people will throw out terms like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. But I am still all about the old school terminology where social networking equals face-to-face interaction. I love attending the National Convention for so many different reasons, but one of my favorites is networking. This year in Chicago, I had the opportunity to create networks with Medical Laboratory Professionals from all around the US.

As a state society president I was invited to attend a class all about ASCLS. This class introduced us to a variety of contacts at the national level including our amazing national president Susie Zanto. As an attendee of the class, I was able to meet and interact with other state presidents. Even though we live in different states we all have the same goals to make our professional societies successful. We were able to share strategies on how to recruit and retain members, ways to offer continuing education, and how to hold successful board meetings. I have already put these connections to work by contacting a couple of the state presidents in our region to get ideas on creating successful activities.

Networking is not only about making connections in our professional society but it can also make a difference in your career. It is not always about what you know, but who you know. I attended a great CE panel about different careers for Medical Laboratory Scientists. I was so surprised at how many of the panelists said they got where they are through a connection with ASCLS. I even witnessed 2 members of the audience exchanging business cards.

I feel so lucky for the opportunity to represent Idaho at the National Convention. I made some amazing contacts in Chicago this year and hope to utilize their skills and knowledge to help better our local society by keeping it old school.

Article submitted by Melissa Dumoulin



Downtown Chicago displays a beautiful selection of architectural masterpieces

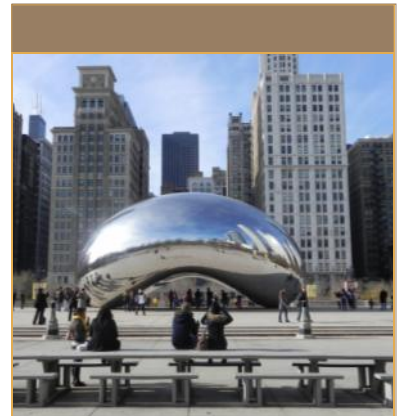
THE ARCHITECTURE OF ASCLS

One thing Chicago has going for it are some amazing displays of [architecture](#). As I arrived in Chicago, late at night, I was struck by the beauty of the many skyscrapers that lined my drive to our hotel. One thing I knew for certain, I wasn't in Rexburg anymore!

Architecture has always intrigued me. My husband studied architecture in college and I can remember staying up many nights, helping him study, prepare and design. From him I learned that there is much more to a building than is apparent from the outside. Many buildings are built to look as if they are ethereal and could crumble under the least bit of pressure but that is rarely the case. Buildings are built to last: to last through storms, earthquakes and natural disasters. Though the exterior may look delicate and fragile, it is the core of that building that will keep it strong, no matter what may come.

ASCLS is like that as well. It is a well-designed unit that will withstand the pressures of change and the storms of challenge because of its foundation. [The Eiffel Tower was never meant to last...](#)but it still stands. ASCLS, like the Eiffel Tower, is here to stay. At the core of this amazing society are the members; members who are committed, members who are dedicated and members who are passionate about ASCLS and our profession. Our vision and values make up the framework within which ASCLS functions but it is truly the members that are the foundation for the greatness that is ASCLS.

At the National Meeting in Chicago I saw evidence of this truth. There were organized and standard procedures for conducting meetings and dealing with the business of ASCLS but there were also grassroots members who care deeply about this profession who stood and voiced their concerns, their ideas and their commitment. I was humbled to be a part of such a powerful and beautiful experience. It changed the way I view ASCLS. ASCLS is not strong for me, it is strong because of me. I am the one that makes the difference...and so do you.



MELISSA DUMOULIN
(President)

DIANA THOMPSON
(President-Elect)

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(Treasurer)

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JASON HUNTER
(Board member 1st year)

DEE JOHNSON
(Board member 2nd year)

DEBBIE SHELL
(Admin. Secretary)



A NEW LOOK, A NEW FEEL AND A NEW WEBSITE

ASCLS-Idaho is pleased to announce that we will be launching a new website on October 1, 2014. There will be a brand new look for our [ASCLS-Idaho website](http://asclsidaho.org) and a brand new feel. We have worked long and hard to build a website that will allow our members to be informed, stay connected and get involved. We hope that you will find our new website to be a valuable tool to help you make the most of your membership in ASCLS-Idaho. We hope to keep the website updated with relevant information and links. There is also an incredible calendar feature that will help you be informed about upcoming events. Members will now be able to leave comments on posts so we can stay connected. It will also be possible to communicate with leaders of ASCLS-Idaho so you have a way to let your voice be heard, to update your contact information and to let us know how we can improve. Come check out our new website and find a way to get involved in ASCLS-Idaho!

[Be Informed...Stay Connected...Get Involved @ asclsidaho.org](http://asclsidaho.org)

OUR MISSION

The mission of ASCLS is to make a positive impact in health care through leadership that will assure excellence in the practice of laboratory medicine.



Questions, Comments & Submissions

The ASCLS-Idaho FOCUS Newsletter is published quarterly and is made available to all ASCLS-Idaho members in electronic format. Rights to edit for content and length of material are retained by ASCLS-Idaho. All ASCLS-Idaho members are invited to submit articles for publication.

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