



# FOCUS

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year, ASCLS Idaho! Wow, can you believe the end of 2014 is here? We have had such a great year, full of amazing events, continuing education and socialization. As we move into **2015, it gives us a chance to set some new year's resolutions for our society.**

I have had the pleasure this year of hearing our national president Suzie Zanto speak on the [Blue Ocean Strategy](#). It talks about how red oceans are markets that we are already utilizing and blue oceans are those uncharted markets that create a new opportunity. I am hoping that this year ASCLS Idaho can work to strengthen our red oceans, while working to create some blue oceans.

Our first resolution as a society should be to work on [increasing our membership](#). Being a part of a professional organization gives us a voice and an opportunity to impact change in the laboratory field. If we all work to get 1 new member, just think how **strong Idaho's voice will be.**

A second resolution should be to try and [attend one of our amazing events](#) this year. I know that time off the bench can be hard to come by, but there have been some very dedicated members working hard to provide some great opportunities. This year we will be holding a legislative symposium, a state convention in Twin Falls, and a leadership retreat. All events will offer continuing education credits and an opportunity to meet laboratory professionals from different parts of the state.

*(Continued on page 6)*

BOARD  
MEETING  
January 22

LEGISLATIVE  
SYMPOSIUM  
March 7

ASCLS-ID SPRING  
CONVENTION  
April 16-18

NATIONAL  
MEETING  
July 28-Aug 1

IMSS  
Sept 30-Oct 3



## My ASCLS New Year's Resolutions:

1. Make a friend in ASCLS-Idaho
2. Keep my membership active
3. Participate in state events
4. Recruit a new member

## A NEW YEAR...A NEW YOU!

So...perhaps you set a New Year's Resolution to lose weight or read more but are either of those going to make a real difference in what really matters...your career? I think not! So...get off that treadmill... put down that book and resolve to take your career to a whole new level this year by amping up your activity in ASCLS. Here are a few suggestions about how you can make 2015 Your ASCLS Year!

First...find a friend in ASCLS...someone that shares your interests and...more importantly...your jokes! Having a friend in ASCLS makes all the difference and takes the fun factor up a notch. Secondly, stay on top of your [membership renewal](#). Lapsed members can renew at any time and only pay a prorated rate so there is no reason to wait. Third, plan now to attend at least one ASCLS-Idaho function whether it is the [Legislative Symposium](#), the [Spring Convention](#) or the [Leadership Retreat](#). Finally, [recruit a new member](#) to ASCLS and share the fun. Resolve to make more of your ASCLS membership this year!

## MEMBERSHIP REWARDS

ASCLS is committed to building a strong society and now offers two terrific incentive programs to help us reach out and share our passion for ASCLS with our friends.

### [2015 Recruitment Program](#)

Earn credit toward your membership dues simply by recruiting new members to ASCLS! For every PF1 and PF2 that you recruit you will receive a credit for \$25 to apply towards your choice of membership renewal or national meeting registration fees. Get all the details [HERE](#). Happy Recruiting!



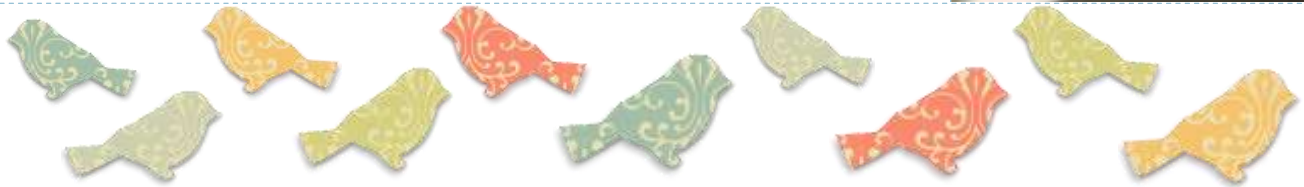
### [Gift A Member](#)

ASCLS now provides a way for you...the long term member...to purchase a membership for somebody new to ASCLS. This is a marvelous way to mentor that First Year Professional or the coworker that just needs that final push to get involved and share their wealth of knowledge through the ASCLS member community. **Go ahead...give** the gift that counts!

## A FLOCK OF MEMBERS

A flock of birds is an amazing sight. Many bird species are gregarious and form flocks for different reasons. Flocks may be different sizes, occur in different seasons and may even be composed of different species that can work well together in a group. Flocks are so prevalent in some bird species that these groups of birds have special names, such as a raft of ducks, a charm of finches, a horde of ravens or a gaggle of geese. But no matter what a flock is called, it always has a benefit for the birds that make it up.

Our flock is called ASCLS-Idaho. We can enjoy the same benefits as birds do when we flock together as a



*Let's flock together this spring at the ASCLS-Idaho Convention!*

society. There is definitely strength and safety to be found in numbers which is why it is so important that we come together with our shared knowledge base and work to protect our profession. ASCLS is a grassroots organization that provides a sheltering place for us to flock to.

Birds do not engage in any behavior that does not bring them a benefit for survival in some way. There are many advantages to flocking, including: foraging, raising families and finding protection. So whether you are foraging for a new job, mentoring a new employee or working to protect your career, ASCLS is the place to do it. From a roaming band of foraging finches to a stupendous migrating flock of geese, flocks of birds can be an amazing sight for birders to enjoy, even more so when they understand how important those flocks can be for birds' survival.

That is why we have chosen "Birds of a Feather" as the theme of our [2015 ASCLS-Idaho Spring Convention](#). We believe that the image of birds flocking together to strengthen and lean on one another is a powerful image and one that we would like to emulate. We are hoping that you and your friends will flock to our convention in record numbers so we can build a strong flock that will be able to survive and thrive well into the future. Please join us in Twin Falls, April 16-18 for a powerful convention.





## LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

The National Legislative Symposium is quickly approaching. Legislative Day is a two day symposium in Washington D.C. that addresses current legislative and regulatory issues that affect the profession. The Legislative Symposium has been going strong since 1989; this year the national symposium will be March 16-17, 2015. The first day of the symposium introduces the issues impacting the profession

and the second day includes visits to Capitol Hill to discuss these important concerns with our legislators. Find out more info for this event [HERE](#).

Idaho will be holding our own [Legislative Symposium](#) on March 7th in Twin Falls. Debbie Shell, our resident expert, will be leading our discussion that day. She will also represent Idaho in Washington, D.C. for the national Leg Day.

*“The Legislative Symposium has been going strong since 1989”*



Welcome  
to Idaho  
Rachel

## TEACHING IS IN HER GENES

Rachel Hulse was recently hired as the Program Director for the Medical Laboratory Sciences program at Idaho State University. In 2014, Rachel earned a Masters of Science degree from the University of Utah in Human Genetics, researching the role of Wnt-signaling in pancreatic development and regeneration. Prior to this, Rachel received a Masters of Science in Genetics and Biotechnology from Brigham Young University in 2011. At BYU, her research involved SNP marker development in wild tetraploid oat via 454 pyrosequencing and genome reduction, in collaboration with the USDA-Ars in Aberdeen, ID. In 2006, **Rachel graduated summa cum laude with her Bachelor’s of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences from the University of Utah.** Upon graduation, Rachel was hired as a lead Medical Technologist at Huntsman Cancer Hospital in Salt Lake City, UT. She then served an 18-month humanitarian mission in Georgia and returned to Salt Lake City to work as a Medical Technologist for ARUP in their Molecular Oncology department. Hailing from Fort Collins, CO, Rachel developed an early interest in science and medicine as she took her first job as an office assistant in a family medical office at the age of 15. In her free time, Rachel enjoys playing her violin, traveling, and swimming. Rachel is married to a Pocatello native, Travis Hulse, and their favorite pas-time is spending time with their one-year old son.





*Whatever season of life you are in, our profession has a place for you.*

## A CAREER FOR ALL SEASONS

As I enter the fall of my life, it makes me wonder where the spring and summer have gone. During each season of my life, my needs and goals for my career as a Medical Laboratory Professional have changed much like the seasons of the year.

I remember taking my first job, fresh out of school, excited to get started on my life. I had so many things going on at the time, building my family as well as my career. I worked with a strong group of seasoned co-workers that helped to shape my education into a practical, real-life career.

Then, as more children came along, my career took a back seat to diapers and PTA. But...I was still able to keep my foot in the door, working weekends and graveyard shifts. Working these **“off” shifts allowed me to develop a strong decision-making** ability. Without a boss or a co-worker in sight, at times, I was able to think through problems and find solutions on my own.

And when the season came for me to step up and become the sole bread-winner in my home, I found that I was able to easily make my career a rewarding profession due in large part to my association with ASCLS. When I was ready to come back, fully engaged and committed, the lab was there to welcome me. I found a position where I could commit myself to the goals of the lab as well as my own personal goals for my future.

So, whatever season of life you find yourself in, know that you are lucky to have such a flexible career that allows you to match your personal needs with your professional goals.

[MELISSA DUMOULIN](#)  
(President)

[DIANA THOMPSON](#)  
(President-Elect)

[MICHELE HARRIS](#)  
(Past President)

[MARJ MONTANUS](#)  
(Secretary)

[AMY HUSE](#)  
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[DIANE STUMPE](#)  
(Editor)

[JASON HUNTER](#)  
(Board member 1st year)

[DEE JOHNSON](#)  
(Board member 2nd year)

[DEBBIE SHELL](#)  
(Admin. Secretary)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Now here are some resolutions that I have chosen as president, and hopefully these will help to create some new blue oceans. I would like to work on our social media presence. Did you know ASCLS-Idaho has a [Facebook](#) page? It is going to be my goal to be posting more often on this page to keep everyone up to date on what is happening in **our society. So don't forget to "like" ASCLS Idaho! I would also like to** work on [transitioning our students](#) to first year professional members. As they begin their professional careers, renewing their membership seems to go by the wayside. I am hoping that we can work to remind them of the importance of being a member and the value it will bring.

I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season, and I hope as we move forward into 2015 we can work to accomplish all of our new **year's resolutions and create some new blue oceans together.**

Melissa

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*[Be Informed...Stay Connected...Get Involved @ asclsidaho.org](#)*

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## 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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