



## Message from our President

### Out of the Lab and Making a Difference

Dear ASCLS-Idaho Members,

I am honored by the trust you have shown in me by electing me as your president and representative for the coming year. I am very lucky to be following in the footsteps of many fine past presidents; Diana Thompson, Melissa Dumoulin, Michele Harris, Liz Neighbor, Holly Weinberg, etc. I know that together we will be able to carry on with the great work these inspiring leaders have established.

As laboratorians, we all feel a sense of security and comfort within the walls of our labs where we can follow procedures, understand policies and verify quality results. Each and every day, within these confines, we make a valuable difference in the lives of our patients. But...I want to challenge each of you to step out of your comfort zone and do something crazy. I am asking each of you to get OUT OF THE LAB and MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

I plan on doing just this in the coming year. I plan on getting OUT OF THE LAB and joining with you as we [Rake Up Boise](#) on November 12th. This beneficial

community service allows us to make a difference in the lives of homebound residents who are unable to do this for themselves. I can guarantee you that we will work hard, have fun and make a real difference.

But that is not all. I plan on getting OUT OF THE LAB and attending the many educational events sponsored by ASCLS such as the [Intermountain States Seminar](#) this month, the Legislative Symposium in March, the [ASCLS-Idaho Spring Convention](#) in April and the ASCLS-Idaho Mini-Leadership Academy in June.

Attending even one of these events will make a difference in your own life. Together we will enlarge our network of professional contacts, enliven our minds with continuing education and enhance our friendships with one another...and maybe even make a difference for someone else.

I also plan on getting OUT OF THE LAB and making a difference by becoming more aware of the issues that threaten our profession. The ASCLS Government Affairs Committee does a wonderful job alerting us to current issues that dramatically affect our

profession and asking for our help to make a difference. I plan on taking action when action is called for. I plan on contributing to our PAC fund so that our voice can be heard on Capitol Hill. I plan on voicing my opinion about these issues and I hope you will do the same. Together we can make a real difference.

There are many ways to get OUT OF THE LAB and you can find your own unique style. Perhaps you will volunteer somewhere, or talk with a neighbor about what you do at work. Maybe you will serve on a committee or be active in your community. Maybe you will tell your co-worker why you stay active in ASCLS and invite them to join. Whatever your style, it will make a difference for you and for ASCLS.

So...will you accept my challenge? Will you find a way to get OUT OF THE LAB and MAKE A DIFFERENCE? Of course you will...and so will I!

Sincerely,  
Diane

### Inside this issue:

<a href="#">National Meeting Report by Michelle Reeve</a>	2
<a href="#">Rake up Boise</a>	2
<a href="#">New Things by Diane Stumpf</a>	3
<a href="#">National Meeting Report: by Kami McGann</a>	4
<a href="#">IIMSS</a>	5
<a href="#">What's Going on with our Licensure Effort?</a>	6

### ASCLS Idaho Calendar

- IMSS in Jackson September 29th - October 1st
- Rake up Boise November 12th
- Legislative Symposium March 25th
- Spring Convention 2017 April 20 - 22

## 2016 National ASCLS Meeting Report: by Michelle Reeve, Pres-Elect

Philadelphia. An important city of our nation's history. So many things happened here that helped in our quest for independence, which makes things possible today in our country. And one benefit of that is that we have the right and ability to form a society for our profession and meet together in national, regional, and state meetings. This is ASCLS, the voice of our profession.

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the National Meeting this year and can now say I definitely look forward to attending again in the future. This was such an amazing opportunity to network with others in our profession around the country, listen to fascinating speakers and attend CE sessions, and to learn more about our society. I never realized how much our society plays a vital role in the curriculum taught at universities for MLT/MLS programs, the role it plays and watches out for us in legislation and government issues regarding our profession, and the vast body of knowledge contained within our society and our members.

This is a volunteer organization and the members involved in leadership positions are involved because they want to be, not because they have to or because they are paid to. I saw such passion and dedication from some of our National ASCLS leaders, session speakers, and those attending



sessions—it made me more appreciative of our profession and all the amazing people in it.

Turning now to a few key highlights of some of the CE sessions I attended, one new bit of info I learned was that Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplants (HSCT) now have application in non-malignant conditions such as Acquired Aplastic Anemia, Sickle Cell Disease, and Thalassemia.

*I never realized how much our society plays a vital role in the curriculum taught at universities, the role it plays in legislation and government issues, and the vast body of knowledge contained within our society and our members.*

Going deeper into Thalassemia, another session focused just on this and discussed blood transfusions, iron overload testing (MRI is now more reliable than traditional serum iron studies), iron chelation, and again the use of HSCT. Another interesting topic was that more is being discovered about platelets and that they have a role in inflammation and infection in addition to hemostasis.

Lastly a topic I found particularly interesting because I work a lot in blood bank is blood Pathogen Reduction (PR). Pathogen Reduced blood products (plts right now and prbcs to follow) will now become the new standard for blood prod-

ucts. This will not replace the traditional infectious disease testing performed on donor blood products, but will help reduce the transmission of emerging pathogens, such as Zika Virus, and also decrease the rate of bacterial contaminants.

All in all, this was an amazing meeting to attend and we had a great delegation there representing Idaho.

## ASCLS Idaho is teaming up with Rake Up Boise



It's time to trade in your microscopes for rakes! Your pipettes for rakes! Your nitrile gloves for leather gloves! Your specimen bags for leaf bags! ASCLS Idaho is excited to be a part of Rake Up Boise again!

This year we'll have 2 teams: The Laboratorians and The Scientists. **We need at least 6 people to be on each team.** Each team will do 2 yards.

**When is Rake Up Boise?** Saturday, November 12, 2016. 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.

**When will the teams receive their assigned houses?** Approximately two weeks in advance. Teams will need to contact their assigned resident to coordinate.

**What supplies do we need:** Bring your own rake and gloves. Rake Up Boise provides leaf bags.

### **What is Rake Up Boise?**

- Aids seniors and disabled neighbors
- Maintains and improves over 700 yards each year
- Builds neighborhood pride
- Eliminates and repurposes biodegradable waste
- Brings community members together through service

**Where do I sign up?** Contact [Kami McGann](#) or [Diane Stumpf](#).

## Join us on November 12<sup>th</sup>!

Let's see what amazing stuff can happen with The Laboratorians and The Scientists get out of the Lab!

Contact:

### The Laboratorians'

Kami McGann: [kjmcgann\\_bsmt@hotmail.com](mailto:kjmcgann_bsmt@hotmail.com)

### The Scientists'

Diane Stumpf: [dstumpf138@gmail.com](mailto:dstumpf138@gmail.com)

For more information check out the [Rake up Boise](#) website or the ASCLS Idaho Website.

Click [here](#) for a great discount on T- shirts for our volunteers!!

## New Things: by Diane Stumpf

Is there anything better than something NEW? I don't think so! I love NEW shoes, NEW books and NEW friends. So, I guess that is why I loved attending the 2016 ASCLS National Meeting and Clinical Lab Expo. Everywhere I looked I found NEW (and exciting) experiences, NEW (and interesting) information and NEW (and fascinating) people. I just want to mention a few of these NEW THINGS in particular.

The first NEW THING that caught my attention was the new ASCLS logo. Susie Zanto, past ASCLS National President, first proposed the idea of a new logo. I have to admit I was a little bit skeptical about this idea at first. Rolling out a new logo is always a difficult thing to do. The last thing you want to do is to lose the brand recognition you have built with your old logo...even if it is outdated. Because of this, I thought sticking with our old logo was the safest thing to do. But...I have to say...ASCLS did a beautiful job of designing the new logo. It looks fresh, it is reminiscent of the old logo and it says to me, "ASCLS is not a has-been organization. We are strong. We are vibrant. We are relevant." I love the new logo!

The second NEW THING I noticed was

the new website for ASCLS. The new website is clean and vibrant in its presentation. It has a real-time feed from our member community discussions, bringing the newest and latest information to the forefront. The design (one of my favorite things) looks professional and is easy to navigate. It is important to recognize that the home page for ASCLS is the face we present to the public. It is our front door that welcomes people into our organization.

Once you join ASCLS, you gain access not just to the exterior of the website, but to the interior Member Community that allows you to easily communicate with other members across the nation. I just recently joined a group called "Bunny's Prayers" in honor of Bunny Rodak, a great hematologist, who recently passed away. As a member of this community, we can join our prayers together on behalf of other ASCLS members who are in need. This might not be your kind of group, but if you take a look around, I am sure you will find a new group that fits your interests.

The final NEW THING I want to men-

tion is our new Executive Vice President, Jim Flannigan. We have been very blessed to have Elissa Passiment at the helm of ASCLS for many years. With the announcement of her retirement, I am ashamed to say that the thought passed through my brain, "This will be the end of ASCLS." I was sure that there would never be another that could lead ASCLS quite like Elissa. And while Jim Flannigan is not Elissa (he doesn't ever wear a shawl) I am pleased to say he is a strong leader whose vision for our future

is inspiring. He is a tall, imposing man but is nevertheless very approachable. He is open to suggestions, recognizes the history behind ASCLS and its importance to our members and is willing to work within this framework and build on it. His background is in marketing which makes him an excellent choice to help us get the word out that ASCLS is better than ever and here for the long-haul. I am excited to say that we will have the opportunity to rub shoulders with Jim at IMSS this year. He is one of our Keynote Speakers so come to Jackson and take this opportunity to meet him in person and give him your new ideas.

It was exciting to feel the energy at the National Meeting as we were all renewed, re-energized and re-committed to making ASCLS the premier organization for Laboratory Professionals. It's almost as good as the feeling I get from a BRAND-NEW pair of shoes!



*It was exciting to feel the energy  
at the National Meeting as we  
were all renewed, re-energized,  
and re-committed.*





# National Meeting Report: by Kami McGann

“Do you need any time off in August?” they asked me. I thought for a moment. Elk season wasn’t until September. Oh wait, I’ve got that alternate delegate thing. When was that ASCLS convention again? I am pretty sure I threw the packet away. Oh well, I’m just an alternate, it’s not like they will need me to actually go. “Nah, I’m good for August” I replied. “Good, because we’ve got Cerner training that first week, so we’ll be short-staffed.”

And short-staffed they were while I was two time zones away in the City of Brotherly Love!

For me, the ASCLS National Meeting was an exceptional and inspiring experience for several reasons. First, it breathed new life into my career. I spent the first part of my career as a generalist bench Tech while I got married and started my family. At almost forty, I’m no longer a newlywed and my boys no longer have me in the ‘toddler trenches’. I now have a little freedom to focus some energy elsewhere. The National Meeting was a perfect kick-start for that. It was like our Spring Convention to the tenth power. There were people from all over our great nation that held a burning desire in their hearts to improve quality, create and implement change for every patient that interacts directly or indirectly with the

Laboratory. The level of dedication, competency and organization I witnessed in the nationwide leadership of ASCLS—all gathered in one place was something I never experienced before.

Second, the ASCLS National Meeting gave me the tools and resources I need to move forward with my career step in my lab. The National Meeting has implemented the Advanced Management Institute (AMI) which is a two-day set of course designed for managers. This year’s primary focus was finance, so I learned about managing FTEs, managerial accounting, informatics, billing for blood product and financial models. Also, it was a great opportunity to network. I have a collection of gracious professionals that I can call with questions.

Last, the ASCLS National Meeting solidified for me the benefits of being an ASCLS member. At the minimum, ASCLS offers resources for us to do our jobs, maintain our knowledge and be apprised of new technologies. However, there is so much more to ASCLS than that!

In our profession, the bench tech has a few options for advancing their career. Inside the lab this usually includes moving to Lead Tech or Department Coordinator. There’s the option to specialize—if you want to. Outside the Lab there’s the option moving to Point of Care, but those positions aren’t always available. There is the option of Technical Service or sales for a manufacturer, or becoming an educator.

This certainly isn’t an exhaustive list, however with these career routes require choices to be made and the loss of bench skills. Many techs have had to decide: Am I ready to leave the bench? If you’re not, then what do you do with the desire to advance your career? What do you do



if there is no ladder for advancement in your facility? What do you do with that desire to make a bigger difference while you’re the night tech at a 500-bed facility?

With ASCLS, there are *many* opportunities to advance your career, make real change, valiantly fight the broken system, learn new skills, and meet new people—all while maintaining your bench skills. There are local, regional and national committees for every aspect of our profession: Patient Safety, Leadership Development, Political Action, Education, Scientific Assembly, Mentoring, Product Development, and the opportunities go on. Guaranteed you would find a committee for the topic you feel passionate about.

So, when I asked Diane what I should include in my report about National Meeting, she said, “Oh, you know, what you found the most inspir-

ing,” I found the people with ‘MLS’, ‘MT’ or ‘MLT’ after their name to be the most inspiring. Gathered in one place from all around the country were scientists passionately dedicated to two things: the patient and other members of our profession. My thanks to them because I am one of many beneficiaries of the fruits of their labor—as a patient and a professional. I am grateful to ASCLS Idaho for providing this opportunity for me. To you reader, I have this: Say YES to ASCLS, get involved and make a difference!

*With ASCLS, there are many opportunities to advance your career, make real change, valiantly fight the broken system, learn new skills, and meet new people.*



## 53rd Annual Intermountain States Seminar

---

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Intermountain States Seminar will be held in Jackson, Wyoming

**When:** September 29<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

It is presented by the ASCLS Region VIII Council. What a wonderful opportunity to meet other professionals from **Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Montana and Colorado.**

We have a great line up of speakers this year.

It is possible to get up to **13.5 PACE credits**. This area is so beautiful in the fall.

We hope you can join us!

Please contact me at [thompsod@cox.net](mailto:thompsod@cox.net) if you have any questions.

Diana Thompson

Registration Chair.



## Welcome to Your New Career

---



We will be visiting our brand-new ISU MLS students on October 5th. We want to welcome them to their new career! Feel free to join us if you have the time!

**When:** October 5th 11am-12pm

**Where:** ISU Campuses Meridian, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls

**Contact:**

Diane Stumpf 208-520-6318

## Need Something New to Wear?

---

ASCLS-Idaho has designed a team t-shirt that we are encouraging all volunteers to wear as a way to get our faces and our profession out there in our community where we can let them know about the difference we make in the lab everyday.

We are offering a **half price discount** on our official "GET OUT OF THE LAB" T-shirts. Volunteers for Rake Up Boise can purchase a t-shirt for just \$6. If

you do not participate in Rake Up Boise you can still purchase a t-shirt for the low price of \$12. Just let us know how many and what sizes you need!

Check out our website [here](#) for more information on Rake up Boise. Contact [Diane Stumpf](#), to place your order.



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

### **Board of Directors**

President:

**Diane Stumpf**

President Elect:

**Mechelle Reeve**

Past President:

**Diana Thompson**

Secretary:

**Karen Bulow**

Editor:

**Kristine Hodson**

Treasurer:

**Amy Huse**

Board Member 2nd Year:

**Jonathon Powell**

Board Member 1st Year:

**Tarena Thomas**

Admin, Secretary:

**Debbie Shell**

## 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.

### PLEASE CONTACT:

Kristine Hodson, ASCLS-Idaho Editor

387 West 160 North, Blackfoot, ID, 83221

Cell: (208) 406-9222 Home: (208) 785-1519

[dkhodson@gmail.com](mailto:dkhodson@gmail.com)



## What's Going On with Our Licensure Effort?

After a summer slowdown in our licensure effort, it's time to renew and strengthen our activities for this important work. The Idaho Legislature convenes Monday, January 9 for its 2017 session with several new legislators elected in the November, 2016 election and many returning supporters of our efforts. We will need to be prepared from the beginning of the session to present our legislation and to be able to explain why this legislation is so important to Idaho's healthcare system.

It will be critical for all of us to introduce ourselves and our issue to each of our legislators in the next couple of months, and convince them to give us their support. Licensure is a non-partisan issue that legislators on both sides of the aisle can support as it relates to patient health and safety. We need to help our legislators understand the risks that patients encounter when uncertified people perform laboratory testing.

Our colleagues from the state of Texas

have also been working on state licensure, and have written a great article explaining why licensure for laboratory professionals is so important. It is very well written and the information in it can help you explain to legislators why this legislation is so important. Please take a few minutes to read [this article](#).

If legislators in your district are running unopposed (go [here](#) to find out who your legislators are), you can approach them now to talk to them about our licensure bill.

The bill is available [here](#) if they (or you!) would like to read it. It is a draft bill, but we do not anticipate that there will be significant changes.

If your legislators are running in contested races, you will need to wait until after the November 8 election to see who will be representing you in 2017. That will give us only 2 months to contact those legislators, so we will need to be ready to

get in touch with them very soon after Election Day.

It will be critical for all of us to participate in this process if we expect to be successful. Please do a little reading, and contact your legislators as soon as you know who they are. Only with their support can we be successful in licensing laboratory professionals in Idaho!

