



FOCUS

ASCLS - IDAHO NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition 2017

Message from the President

Continue Your Education

I am so excited about our upcoming ASCLS-Idaho Convention of Higher Learning, April 20-22. The setting for our convention is the ISU campus in Idaho Falls. We will be holding our sessions in actual college classrooms, complete with stadium seating. It takes me back to the good old days when I was just going to college so I could "educate" myself. I wanted to be smart but I did not necessarily want a career. I spent the first four years of my eight year pursuit of a bachelors degree taking any class that sounded interesting and educational. I did not limit myself to a pre-determined course. I wandered all over that college campus looking for knowledge and seeking learning. I loved every minute of it...until they told me I needed to buckle down and chose a major!

Well, at our convention, you will be able to wander all over taking any class that sounds interesting to you. You will be the one to direct your learning and continue your own education. This is one of the things I love the most about our profession...the continual thirst and desire for more knowledge and more education. We all know that without this, we would quickly become obsolete, outdated and obscure. If you are feeling a little "put out to pasture" come take advantage of the opportunity to be well-educated at our Convention of Higher Learning.

Speaking of the need to be well-educated, I wish to recognize the efforts of so many of our members in the pursuit of state licensure for laboratory professionals. We were so close to getting our Licensure Bill heard in the House. Unfortunately, we were unable to obtain the votes we needed and the bill was killed for the time being. But...that won't stop us from continuing to strive for a safer, more educated pool of laboratory professionals in Idaho.

This is where ASCLS-Idaho members need to step in when the state won't and help ensure that we are providing excellent training to our new employees, students and interns. We need to stretch ourselves to stay current and knowledgeable, even if our day-to-day work does not require this of us. We all know there will be a patient someday who will depend on us to notice those abnormal cells, or be able to isolate and identify that rare strain of bacteria or to correctly identify the multiple antibodies present in their plasma. We need to stay current, we need to teach each other and learn from each other. There is no better way to protect the knowledge base we collectively share. Membership in our professional society, ASCLS, just makes sense.

I look forward to seeing you soon and hope you will do your best to represent our profession well.

Sincerely,

Diane

Upcoming Events

- [Legislative Symposium](#)
[March 25th 1 - 4pm](#)
- [Spring Convention 2017](#)
[April 20-22nd](#)
- [ASCLS Idaho Mini Leadership Academy June](#)
[24th 9:30-12:30](#)
- [IMSS Region VIII](#) [September 28 - 30th](#)



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ASCLS - Idaho Convention of Higher Learning

April 20-22 on the ISU Idaho Falls Campus

It is time to check out the schedule, enroll in some classes and get ready to do some serious studying at the ASCLS-Idaho Convention of Higher Learning. All Educational sessions will be held at the CHE (Center for Higher Education) building. Vendor sessions will be held in the Multi-Purpose room of the Bennion Student Union Building. Bring your argyle socks, sweater vests, backpacks and horn-rimmed glasses because school's back in session!

Register Now

Enrollment is now open so get in line...but wait...those days are gone! There is no need to stand in a long line to save your spot at the ASCLS-Idaho Convention of Higher Learning! There is plenty of space for everybody to enroll, attend and learn! And the best part is that you can do it from the comfort of your easy chair. Good-bye long lines!

Early Bird Registration

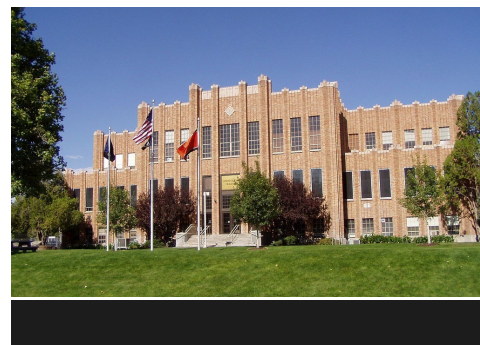
You know what they say...the early bird gets the worm! Well in this case...the early bird gets their name entered in a drawing for a FREE ONE-YEAR ASCLS MEMBERSHIP compliments of ASCLS-Idaho! All registrations received by March 31st are eligible to win...so what are you waiting for? [Register online](#) or, if you prefer, whip out that checkbook, [fill out that form](#) and slap a stamp on it pronto so you can be "The Early Bird!"

Registrations received on or after April 12th as well as on-site registration will be accepted, but there is an additional \$25.00 late fee for being the Late Bird!

Download the App

ASCLS-Idaho is pleased to announce that we now have an App for our Convention of Higher Learning! This app will work on any mobile device...whether it is the earliest version or the latest version. Download the [Events XD App](#) at the App Store and search for "Idaho" or "ASCLS-Idaho Convention of Higher Learning".

The app allows you to customize your own schedule by choosing the College Courses you are interested in attending. Once you open the ASCLS-Idaho Convention of Higher Learning, the event will show up under the "My" tab. If you have questions about the app or need a brief cram session to get it down, please [contact Diane Stumpf](#) or come by the Registration Desk where we will be happy to help you.



School is Back in Session

The 2017 ASCLS-Idaho Convention of Higher Learning is the perfect setting to ASSOCIATE with friends and colleagues, EDUCATE your mind with the most up-to-date information and MOTIVATE yourself to get more involved with ASCLS!

Enrollment is open to all!



The fabulous Children's Miracle Network Raffle

will take place once again at the ASCLS Convention in the Vendor's room. Your help is needed in two ways to help make it a success.

1. Please bring home-made items, purchased items, gift baskets, or gift cards to the convention to be raffled off. If every laboratory donated something, we could have the best raffle yet.
2. The second way you can make the raffle a success is to bring cash. Lots of cash to buy lots of raffle tickets for the fabulous items on display. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5.

Please contact Chris DeAngelo @ DeAngeloid@msn.com if you have questions or are planning to donate something at the raffle. Together, we can make a difference and raise a lot of money for a great cause.

Nominations for open positions for the 2017-2018 ASCLS Idaho Board

The following individuals have been nominated for the open positions for the 2017-2018 ASCLS Idaho Board. Please read the bios and come ready to vote during the business luncheon at the Convention of Higher Learning!

President-Elect:

Chris Doran: My family is originally from Montana, although growing up I had the opportunity to live in several diverse cultures while my dad was in the military. I have been in laboratory science for over 30 years and currently serve as director at St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center Laboratory. I have 3 grown children and 3 grandchildren, most recently a set of identical twin grand-daughters born on March 7. Feel free to ask me to show you several hundred photos of Lilly and Abby anytime. In my spare time, I do agility with my 2 Australian Shepherds who enjoy being smarter than me. I look forward to taking on this role with ASCLS-ID, which has given so much to me professionally over the years.

Treasurer:

Amy Huse: Amy Huse got her first degree in Science Education from the University of Oklahoma in 2000 and her second degree in CLS from ISU in 2008. She has been at St Luke's in the lab for eight years. She has a daughter at BSU, a son at Borah High, and a husband who is a partner at LCA Architects. In her free time, she enjoys crafting, gardening, motorcycling, racing zebras, and obtaining chocolate-related injuries. They're good stories. You can ask her yourself.

Secretary:

Mary Echanove Brown: I am an Idaho native of Basque ancestry with two beautiful daughters attending college. I graduated from Idaho State University's MLS program and have been employed at the Boise VA Medical Center for the past ten years, working in my current role as Chemistry Supervisor for three years. Our profession is constantly changing and I always look forward to learning new technologies and ideas. My favorite daily pastime is cooking and trying out new recipes while spending time with my yellow Labrador, Birdie.

Editor:

Jessica Lewis: Jessica joined ASCLS- ID as a student in 2014 and has enjoyed membership since that time. She graduated from ISU in 2015 with a Bachelor's in Clinical Lab Science. She works part time at EIRMC in the microbiology department and enjoys every minute!

2 Year Board Member:

Mary Cobos: Mary was born and raised as a country girl from Oklahoma. She loves fishing, country music, coffee and chocolate! She joined the Air Force in 1998 and began her journey in the laboratory. She met the man of her dreams while serving and had 3 amazing kids. They have spent the last 15 years creating a beautiful life together. After a long and memorable career in the military, Mary went back to school in 2011 in pursuit of her degree. She graduated in 2015 with honors from the MLS program at Idaho State University. Just after graduating, she became the laboratory manager at Blackfoot Medical Center. A little over a year later she became the laboratory manager of Mountain View Hospital. Laboratory medicine is not just her career, but her passion!

[Continued on page 7](#)



Idaho State Capital

Licensure: Two Steps Forward, One Step Back - by Debbie Shell

When our colleagues in states with licensure or attempting to get licensure, say that it can be a slow, multi-year process, they are so right! Although we made some progress in Idaho during this year's legislative session, and we are very pleased about that, we have a ways to go to be successful.

On Monday, February 13, Representative Phyllis King, our sponsor, was successful in getting the House Health & Welfare Committee (H&W) to agree to print our bill, and it was given the designation House Bill 161. We then began the work of trying to convince each of the members of H&W that licensure for laboratorians is important for patient safety in Idaho. We asked ASCLS-Idaho members living in the districts of the members of H&W, as well as many ASCLS-Idaho leaders, to contact those legislators and ask for their support for our bill. I am pleased to say that 5 of the members of H&W agreed to support House Bill 161, especially since 2 of those members had previously been "on the fence". Unfortunately, we need 7 members of H&W to support us in order for the Chair of the Committee to agree to schedule a hearing in the H&W Committee. So, two steps forward, one step back.

So, what now?

Reasons legislators gave for not supporting our bill include: 1) insufficient evidence that patients are being harmed, and 2) an opinion that anyone with "an interest in medicine and some on-the-job training can run laboratory tests". I don't know how that makes you feel, but I am alarmed that someone with little or no knowledge of our profession would have that opinion. We must do a better job of promoting ourselves as educated and skilled professionals.

We will be trying to find new ways to gather more data on problems with laboratory tests performed by inadequately trained staff. And we must be more willing to promote our profession by letting everyone know who we are, what we do, and what it takes to be a laboratory professional.

Although we were not successful in convincing the legislature that licensure is important for quality laboratory testing, and thereby patient safety, this year, we did make progress in getting some legislators to see why this is so important. If we continue to make similar progress in the future, we can be successful in protecting patients by requiring a license to practice laboratory medicine in Idaho!

How can you help?

Know

Get to know your state Senator and Representatives, and talk to them about your profession. Introduce yourself at town hall meetings they hold in the district. Many of them travel home for the weekend while the legislature is in session, and expect to hear from their constituents during that time and throughout the rest of the year when the legislature is not in session.

Attend

ASCLS-Idaho Legislative Symposium

Saturday, March 25, 2017

St. Luke's Magic Valley in Twin Falls,

1:00pm-4:00pm.

Representative Phyllis King will attend, and we will discuss this year's licensure effort and plan for the future. Bring your ideas and a friend, learn about our licensure efforts and about national legislative and regulatory issues impacting clinical laboratories, come early and have lunch with colleagues from across Idaho, and **get PACE credit** for being there!

Go to <http://asclsidaho.org/events/legislative-symposium/>, download the registration form, and register today!

Volunteer

Volunteer to help with our licensure efforts. Contact Debbie Shell at dmsell1707@gmail.com or any ASCLS-Idaho Board member to learn how you can help.



Laboratory Professionals Week

Lab Week Run 'Fun'raiser 2017

By Kami McGann

Laboratory Professionals Week will be here before you know it! Does your lab have someone that plans activities for Lab Week? If you're like my lab, there are many that want to plan, but seriously, between benchwork, inspections, method validations, overtime, training, etc..."Aint' nobody got time for dat!". Lab Week Virtual Run is a perfect activity for your Lab during Laboratory Professionals Week. It's easy, nearly no planning required, great for employee morale, can increase your Vitamin D, and the proceeds go to a great cause!

How does a 'Virtual Run' work?

A virtual race unlike a traditional race can be run at any time during Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (April 23rd through April 29th 2017) and can be run anywhere. Participants can walk, use a treadmill, run outside, or even run in another race concurrently. Participants can perform this race at any speed they like. The first year (2016) Lab Week Run had participants run, walk, push baby strollers, walk their dog, hike, and even can be completed all together or over time whenever.



Why should I sign up for this Virtual Run, how is it different from the others?

Unlike many virtual runs which only pledge 5% or other small percentages of their profits to causes the Lab Week Run is entirely not for profit. Everything we raise goes to our cause of helping Medical Laboratory Professionals attend meetings, lobby representatives for the profession, and become the future leaders this field needs.

I've signed up for the run, now what happens?

Now your race packet will be mailed to the address you've provided. Once your packet arrives you will receive your Lab Week Run 2017 Race Bib, Safety Pins, and your Lab Week Run 2017 Finisher Medal. *When Medical Laboratory Professionals Week begins Sunday April 23rd, 2017 you will have from then until Saturday April 29th, 2017 to complete the virtual run distance of 5K.* We encourage you to wear your race bib and have fun with the event—as much as Lab Week Run is a fundraiser it is also about promoting our profession during our week so that more people can learn who we are and how vital we are to healthcare.

Should I dress up?

That is entirely up to you. We had people dress up last year and hope to see more this year as this event is about promoting our profession during the week celebrating us.

How do I keep track of my time/pace?

The Medical Laboratory Professional virtual race is an honor system so no proof is required however we encourage you to upload pictures to <https://www.labweekrun.com/index.php/submit/> after finishing as there are many wonderful prizes being awarded for creative participation! To keep track of your time there are many free applications available here: <https://www.labweekrun.com/index.php/free-runner-apps/>

I've completed my virtual run, now what?

Savor the glory! Submit your race time and photo to <https://www.labweekrun.com/index.php/submit/>

Be Social!

ASCLS Idaho wants to see your Laboratory Professionals Week Activities! Post your photos, stories or comments on the ASCLS Idaho page. The LabWeekRun is a national activity. Through social media you can reach out and share with other Lab peeps across the nation! #lab4life #iamascls #labweekrun



ASCLS - Idaho Mini Leadership Academy

(3 P.A.C.E credits)

When: Saturday, June 24th 2017
from 9:30am-12:30pm

Where: Snake River Grill, Hagerman Idaho

Cost: \$25 for ASCLS Members, \$35 for Non-members, \$15 for Students

Who: Anyone who desires to be a leader in their Lab

Why: Leadership does not have to simply be management.

RSVP or questions: Kami McGann
(208) 407-0543 kjmcgann_bsmt@hotmail.com

Event website:

Where have all the Leaders gone?

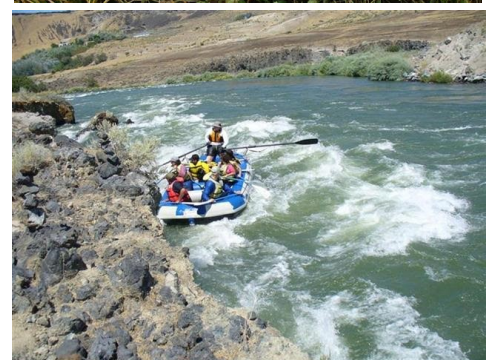
By Kami McGann

Well I think we can all agree: Yes, the bubble popped. The days of SMAC, Ektachem and Coulter Count are no longer. Having a Tech with 20+ years of knowledge and experience conveniently located on the next bench is merely a luxury now. How many times have we heard, "I've been doing this for 30 years and I'm done", or "I want to finally do some travelling, it's time to let a younger person take over"? Yes, our Boomer-bubble popped. The Clinical Lab now looks like a 30-40-something using terms like 'automated', 'amplified' and 'sequenced'. It's no different with Lab management. What does management in the Clinical Lab look like now? Often, it is that 30-40-something Scientist with 10 (or less) years of bench experience. Many Scientists have suddenly found themselves being offered the Lab Manager position. Many are the only candidate. Many are being offered the position by default—especially in the rural hospital setting. How prepared are they? Has their employer invested in them or just looking for a 'place holder'? Laboratory management can be so much more than balancing a budget, negotiating analyzer contracts and dealing with personnel. It can be leadership! The kind of leadership that makes employees want to stay. The kind of leadership that inspires.

ASCLS Idaho is pleased to present the Mini-Leadership Academy.

This one-day event that seeks to grow and develop our own leaders right here at home. It is an opportunity for **anyone** who seeks skills to becoming a better leader in their Lab. We will be meeting on **Saturday June 24th 2017**, in beautiful Hagerman Idaho at the Snake River Grill. A delicious meal and 3 PACE-approved CEUs are provided. Take advantage of the leadership resource and the awesome location. Hagerman in June is fabulous! Bring the family, there is camping and fun activities for them to do while you spend a few hours at the Academy. Make it a mini-vacation. A weekend get-away. Carpool with a colleague (or two!) to Hagerman—take the long way home and do some sight-seeing. Set aside one day to be enriched.

Leadership does not have to simply be management. It doesn't have to be just surviving; it can be growing, making a difference! What does leadership look like in the Lab? The same as it always has. It's that new hire in hematology that aspires to be a Lab Manager some day. It's that LIS Scientist that doesn't think he has people-skills. It's that single mom that is now a Lead Scientist. It's that Phleb that is now charged with changing a negative work-culture. It's that student on her clinical rotation weighing what to do with her degree and certification. Yes, it's even that 30-40-something that has found herself in the Lab Manager's office with only keys and a computer. Anyone can be a leader in their Lab.



2 Year Board Member continued:

Jena Pike: Jena Pike grew up in Texas where she graduated from Refugio High School and then Texas A & M University Corpus Christi with a degree in Elementary Education. Jena taught elementary school before becoming a stay at home mom to her three children. When her kids reached school-age, Jena enrolled at Idaho State University with her sights set on the Medical Laboratory Science program. She is employed in the microbiology department at Portneuf Medical Center where she enjoys a career testing and analyzing fluid specimens in the lab rather than cleaning and controlling those of her children.

Seteria Hammer: My name is Seteria Hammer. I grew up and have lived most of my life in Idaho Falls. I got my bachelors degree in Medical Lab Science from Idaho State University. After I finished my degree I moved to Utah for a few years where I worked at Myriad Genetics and had a lot of fun learning about how genetic tests are ran. I have a one year old little boy that is my miracle baby. I am now working at Madison Memorial Hospital as a technologist.

Christy Horkley: I grew up in Ohio. Soon after my high school graduation, I joined the Air Force and began my laboratory career. I finished my Associates in Medical Laboratory Science and became an ASCP certified MLT. In 2001, after 6 years of military service, I moved with my husband to Idaho. I continued work as an MLT as my husband and I started our family with 2 wonderful kids. Over the next few years, I completed my Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Laboratory Science through the University of Cincinnati. Once I finished my bachelor degree I became an ASCP certified MLS, and joined the laboratory team at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in the Hematology Department in 2011. I feel blessed to work in an incredible field that is so personally rewarding.

Kami McGann: Since graduating from the ISU MLS program, I've been a Medical Lab Scientist for 12 years. Presently, I work at Valor Health in Emmett Idaho. I feel so blessed to be able to say that I love my job. I've been an active member of ASCLS for 12 years. As a member of ASCLS Idaho, I've enjoyed our Spring Conventions, IMSS and ASCLS National Meeting. This past year, I've had the pleasure of being a part of ASCLS Idaho leadership as a Board Member and Leadership Development Chair. As a direct product of ASCLS Idaho's investment and commitment to the students of the ISU MLS program, I will continue being involved in the organization that was instrumental in making my fulfilling career possible.

Debbie Russell: ISU graduate BS-CLS 2005 Employed at Power County Hospital since 2005 first as a generalist and in 2016 became Laboratory Supervisor. I am also Infection Control as of 2016, Critical Access Hospital employees wear many hats! I have been a member of ASCLS on and off for many years. I helped with the Spring Convention organizing the raffle to benefit Children's Miracle Network and this year as the Registration Chair. I was born and raised in SE Idaho and lived here all my life. I have two adult children. My hobbies are crafting, reading, cooking/eating, traveling. My sister is my travel buddy and we are looking for an international destination to add to our travels.



NIC celebration of the approval of MLT program

The program was developed to ensure students have an easy transition to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree and opportunities to obtain higher certification.

New MLT Program at North Idaho College

In October 2014, North Idaho College (NIC) was awarded a \$6.4 million grant through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training program to develop an Idaho Center of Excellence Healthcare Partnership. One of the identified pathways under the grant was Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT).

In December 2014, Sonja Nehr-Kanet, MS, MLS (ASCP)^{CM} was hired as the MLT Program Director/Instructor to develop and start the new program. With guidance from various stakeholders, she has put together a program that will have the theory portion of the program online to Quality Matters standards and made available across the State of Idaho.

Student lab activities that will anchor the online didactic will be done on NIC's main campus and in regional clinical sites. The program will have internship experiences and a capstone course to help mentor new MLT students and prepare graduating students for national certification exams.

Projects are planned to collaborate with other health care disciplines and the community.

For further information, check out our [website](#) or contact Sonja Nehr-Kanet at sonja.nehr-kanet@nic.edu or 208-929-4015

Be Informed...Stay Connected...Get Involved
@ asclsidaho.org

Questions, Comments, and 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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