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NPNMF

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF NEW PROFESSIONALS AND NEW MEMBERS AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A PROMISING FUTURE.

E-newsletter

Purpose of the NPNMF: to engage and inform individuals new to the profession and ASCLS about the various opportunities that membership affords. Forum driven activities will support the needs and interests of Forum members.

NPNMF vs. NPC

By: Jasmin Davis, Past Chair and Region VII Co-Communication Coordinator and Peregrina Roberts, Former Region IX NPC Representative

- ◆ More inclusive: open to new professionals, those with less than five years' experience, and all new members in their first four years of membership who want to know more about ASCLS (FYP, PFI or PFII)
- ◆ Forum vs. committee to allow for more members and greater input
- ◆ All members of the Forum attending the ASCLS Annual Meeting can have a voice by voting for Forum officers.
- ◆ Instead of NPC regional representatives there will be one Communications Coordinator appointed by the Regional Director from each of the ten regions. This could be, but is not limited to, the regional New Professional representative or First Year Professional Director.
- ◆ There will be a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. The Vice Chair and Secretary will be elected during EACH ASCLS Annual Meeting by the members of the Forum. The Vice Chair succeeds to the Chair position the following year.
- ◆ The Forum will have three recurring charges annually
 - ◆ Establish a key network of those members interested in participating in efforts of the Forum and communicate with them on a monthly basis.
- ◆ Educate members of the Forum on ASCLS and opportunities within ASCLS so all involved gain a better understanding of the inner workings of ASCLS.
- ◆ Identify the needs of those new to the profession and/or ASCLS to determine how ASCLS can help meet those needs as an organization.
- ◆ Forum members will determine additional charges during the Forum business meeting at the ASCLS Annual Meeting.
- ◆ This large Forum will allow us to get different perspective from all different experience levels.
- ◆ Great stepping stone for all new members who want to serve on different committees in the future
- ◆ Opportunity to represent your State or Region regardless of your working experience



Some new professionals and students in Chicago, IL at the 2014 ASCLS Annual Meeting



What ASCLS Offers Me

By: Gretchen Brocksmith, New Professionals and New Members Forum Vice-Chair and Government Affairs New Professionals Representative

The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science is the organization for all Medical Laboratory Scientists. It provides leadership, education, and promotes all aspects of laboratory science practices such as patient safety, government affairs, research, and new technology. ASCLS is here to make a positive impact on health care. The Society believes in quality laboratory services completed by competent and credentialed laboratory professionals.

ASCLS is successful because of dedicated individuals who step up and become leaders. There are many great opportunities for each member to get involved, not only on the state and regional level but also on the national level. ASCLS offers many committees that members can be a part of. The Leadership Development Committee provides current and future members the skills to become better leaders for the organization and the laboratory profession.

The Government Affairs Committee serves as the voice for all clinical laboratory professionals in government issues. The Patient Safety Committee is to dedicated research, education, and promotion of the best laboratory practices to give quality and effective laboratory results to patients.

There are also many benefits of being a member of ASCLS. Educational benefits include PACE, Professional Acknowledge for Continuing Education. PACE courses provide continuing education credits through hundreds of quality programs on topics of critical interests. When joining or renewing your membership, you automatically receive FOCUS which is published in our Clinical Laboratory Science Journal and is a great way of maintaining continuing education. This publication features articles in the latest research, education, and government activities affecting our profession. The ASCLS Today Newsletter provides timely updates on legislation, education, and membership. Both are exceptional and keep members well informed.

ASCLS members can choose from a wide range of personal discounts on as health, auto, and life, professional liability, and disability insurance.

For me, ASCLS is more than just a professional society that looks good on paper. ASCLS gives me a voice to promote the needs and concerns of the laboratory and the profession to other laboratory professionals, legislation, and other members of our society. It gives me the support and courage I need when defend-

ing all medical laboratory scientists to doctors, nurses, and even other laboratory scientists. ASCLS has given me the opportunity to explore new technology that will one day be a part of every lab. The ASCLS Newsletter keeps me up-to-date on matters in our world and the world around us. The Clinical Laboratory Science Journal helps me stay informed about new research that is being conducted. Besides all these wonderful features, one of my favorites is the ASCLS National Meeting. At this meeting, you are given the chance to meet people just like you, who are interested in talking lab talk and discussing important issues we face as a lab and as individuals. It is a great way to network. I have gained lifelong friendships, and I know if I ever need help with anything concerning the lab I can call on them.

I urge everyone to continue their membership and try to get one coworker and/or friend to join ASCLS. Please visit our website for more information: ascls.org.

Gretchen Brocksmith, MLS (ASCP)
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**NEW
PROFESSIONALS
AND NEW
MEMBERS
FORUM:**

**Recurring
Charges for the
2014-2015 year:**



- ◆ Establish a key network of those members interested in participating in efforts of the new group and communicate with them on a monthly basis.
- ◆ Educate members of the new group on ASCLS and opportunities within ASCLS so all involved gain a better understanding of the inner workings of ASCLS.
- ◆ Identify the needs of those new to the profession and/or ASCLS to determine how ASCLS can help meet those needs as an organization.



How to Get Involved

By: Lacey Campbell, New Professionals and New Members Forum Chair



Since I first became a student member of ASCLS, I have been on a rollercoaster ride of adventurous travel to state, regional, and national meetings, have had numerous opportunities to network with fellow colleagues, and many chances to learn about how our professional organization is ran and how to make the most of it. You too can be actively involved in ASCLS and it's easier than you think! As your New Professionals and New Members Chair for 2014-2015, I would love to tell you how!

As you know, face-to-face interactions are always the best way to network with possible employers, fellow new professionals, and colleagues in all realms of clinical laboratory positions. Each constituent society holds an annual meeting in the fall or spring in their state or in some circumstances a neighboring state. At these annual meetings, you will find several scientific sessions that allow you to review many aspects of a particular subject or learn about new technologies and findings from completed research in these subjects. These scientific sessions also allow you to obtain P.A.C.E. credits towards your ASCP Certification Maintenance Program. Because of this, many employers will allow you to attend as an educational paid leave. Many of the constituent society annual meetings also contain clinical laboratory vendor exhibits where you can meet representatives from multiple scientific companies that could become your future employer.

Constituent societies also hold board meetings several times a year where they discuss plans and upcoming activities in their states and regions. Even if you live in one state and work in another, you may choose which constituent society to be involved in based on where their meetings are frequently held. Although only constituent society board members are able to vote, most meetings are open to any member who is interested in being more involved. In my opinion, this is the best way to show interest in

your state's constituent society and grow as a professional in our national organization!

There are also Regional Meetings held every year, sometimes multiple times a year, depending on the region. There are ten regions represented nationwide. If you are unsure of which region your state or constituent society falls within, you may look it up at <http://www.ascls.org/state-center>. Many of these meetings are advertised on their regional webpage, Facebook account, or on the ASCLS Community Calendar at <http://ascls.mymemberfuse.com/event/list/>. These meetings also include various scientific sessions, networking opportunities with vendors, and often times a social activity to get to know your colleagues better.

There are also three National Meetings held each year by ASCLS. The first is the National Annual Meeting and AACC Clinical Laboratory Expo. This conference is five days in length and is held the last week of July and first couple days of August. It contains over 50 scientific sessions in order to satisfy your continuing education credits, more than 800 exhibiting companies to show the latest laboratory science technologies, and many opportunities to connect with colleagues and make friendships nationwide. Each year, the Annual Meeting is held in a different city so this also increases your opportunity to travel. The second meeting is the Legislative Symposium held over two days in late March in Washington, D.C. The first day of this meeting includes an opportunity to learn about how our legislative offices work and about the governmental concerns we face in clinical laboratories nationwide. The second day of the Legislative Symposium, each state's society is given the opportunity to put their skills to the test as they lobby for our profession with their respective senators and congressmen. The last meeting is the Clinical Laboratory Educators' Conference held in varying cities in February each

year. This meeting allows faculty, administrators, directors, advisors, and others to convene to discuss concerns and ideas related to clinical laboratory science education. Each of these annual meetings offers an array of opportunities for all levels of professionals, but especially new professionals entering the field of clinical laboratory science wanting to learn about our chosen profession.

In addition to multiple meetings, there are also ten standing committees within ASCLS in which students and new professionals can be appointed. These committees include: the Awards Committee, Bylaws Committee, Government Affairs Committee, Leadership Development Committee, Membership Committee, P.A.C.E. Committee, Patient Safety Committee, Product Development Committee, Political Action Committee (PAC), and Promotion of the Profession Committee. The charges and responsibilities of each of these committees can be found at <http://www.ascls.org/ascls-leadership/committees>. As a student or new professional appointed to a committee, you are responsible for participating in monthly conference calls and any activities related to completing the committee's charges.

I have many exciting ideas for this upcoming year to successfully complete the New Professional and New Members Forum charges set by the ASCLS President. I am truly honored to serve as your NPNMF Chair and I will strive to provide you with any resources you may need as you transition from a student into a first-year professional and then into a new professional. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you are interested in serving ASCLS in any capacity at laceyanncampbell@gmail.com. I look forward to working with you this year as we become the new voice for ASCLS!

Introducing the 2014-2015 NPNMF Leadership

"I got involved with ASCLS because I wanted to be active within my profession, and the first step I took was becoming the National Student Forum Chair. I've joined something much bigger than myself that gives a VOICE to every one of its members concerns, opinions, competence and professionalism. I'm always learning something valuable, and I want to continue to spread that with others."



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"I was fortunate enough to attend a school where the professors and upper classmen were very active within ASCLS. Their excitement for this organization was contagious, and I couldn't help but want to be apart of it. Through out my membership, I have been a State Student Rep, National Student Forum Chair, and now the First Year Professional Director. Each position confirmed to me why it's so beneficial to be apart of ASCLS. The people start to feel like family and are always there to help in anyway possible. I've have made friendships that I truly cherish, and learned how to be a professional in my everyday life. Over the next year, I want to see the NPNMF find ways we can connect with people who aren't members, and to help mentor the ones we have. I want people to know that, no matter what is going on in life or at work; there are people who they can turn to for assistance."

"I got involved with ASCLS as a student because I was highly influenced by many of my professors who were very active within ASCLS. I was blessed to be elected as the Georgia Student Forum Chair and then the National Student Forum Chair and had a great mentor that taught me the inner workings of ASCLS. I am thankful to be a part of ASCLS, where we obtain professional growth, lifelong friendships, and a voice in congressional affairs. ASCLS has provided me with a professional gateway to my career!"



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Gretchen Brocksmith, New Professionals
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"I got involved with ASCLS as a student when I was elected Louisiana Student Forum Chair. I went to my first national meeting last year in Houston where I found a love for ASCLS. I was chosen as Student Representative of Region VII and also Student Representative of the Government Affairs Committee. I attended the Legislative Symposium where I learned how I could have an impact on congressional matters. I am very proud to be part of such a wonderful society where members have a voice and can grow professionally. I am very excited to see what we can accomplish this year!!"

Introducing the 2014-2015 NPNMF Leadership

I had gotten involved with ASCLS because many of my professors from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth were members and they had always brought up the fact of how great of an organization this was. My first event I attended I was a sophomore at the 2012 Legislative Symposium. From that one conference I noticed how everyone there had a passion for ASCLS and loved to motivate upcoming professionals. This wanted me to become more active within the organization and help guide other students and new/recent grads how this profession WILL lead you to a wonderful career. I am very excited to see what this this group of young, motivated, and active leaders will do within this following year!!



Anietie Uko, New Professionals and New Members Forum Secretary
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"ASCLS has been a huge part of my life rooting from my earlier college years at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. My professors were very active within the society. They encouraged not only myself but my fellow classmates to show their passion in their soon-to-be career by becoming active by attending meetings on the state and regional level. Personally, I was active with the Medical Laboratory Science Club at my school and the club advisor/ my professional mentor was also the Region 1 Director at the time. She needed a Region 1 student representative and encouraged me to take on the position. That I must say was the start to a beautiful journey I have had with ASCLS. Since then I have been active with ASCLS within Region-1, on a few national committees, traveled the country attending the national conferences, and met so many wonderful and highly decorated colleagues in our profession that have turned into family!"

"As a part of the New Professionals/ New Member Forum a goal of mine would be to involve more recent graduates to become more involved in the ASCLS. Not only to involve more people but to show recent graduates much like myself, that your education, learning, and involvement does not end after graduation but can continue once you have found a career in the field that you love. I also would like to show recent graduates and long time members the perks and opportunities of what being an ASCLS member can be. Also, I would like to promote the importance of the laboratory to other areas in the medical field. Being new into the profession I often see where the laboratory and its significance are often underestimated and unappreciated. I feel that we are unappreciated and not given credit for exactly what all the laboratory does due to the lack of education the other areas in healthcare fail to understand. I'd like to promote and emphasize exactly what we do and its importance to other areas in healthcare. I would also like to reach out to young students who are searching for a career in the health profession to give the laboratory a chance and to bring more light to our profession as a whole. There are always job opportunities available in many locations, and it is a goal of mine to introduce students into the "behind the scenes side" of healthcare."



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Heather Chapman, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region III Communication Coordinator
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"I decided to join ASCLS because of how involved our teachers were at GRU. I absolutely loved it! It has given me so many chances to grow in our professional field that I never would have been able to without the involvement in our Society. You meet great people, create networks, and become the voice of the first year and new professionals to help make the profession better as a whole. It's a rewarding feeling."

Introducing the 2014-2015 NPNMF Leadership

"My ASCLS involvement started Junior year in college. My then professor, now mentor, urged all her students to get actively involved in our professional organization. Joining ASCLS was one of the best decisions of my life. ASCLS not only provided me with a solid foundation for clinical laboratory science but also an extensive professional network, leadership development opportunities/growth and impelling advocacy for the profession."



Jonathan Gusilatar, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region IV
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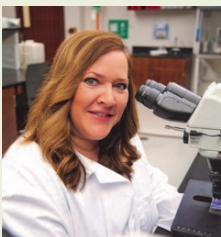
Karen Larson, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region V
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"I work as an acute care MLS for Fairview Health Services at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis. I first joined ASCLS during my clinical internship in 2012, serving as the Student Forum Chair for Minnesota and Region V. I became involved in ASCLS because I wanted to gain more leadership experience and meet other professionals who share my passion for laboratory medicine. The experiences I've had so far have been extremely rewarding and they keep me inspired to stay active in ASCLS. ASCLS has been instrumental in my growth and development as a laboratory professional. I am excited to see how we can work together this year as a larger team through the NPNMF to achieve our shared goals!"

"My name is Stephanie Godfrey and I am the Region VI NPNMF Representative. I received my undergraduate degree from Saint Louis University and moved to the Kansas City area a little over a year ago. I work at Community Blood Center of Greater Kansas City as an Immunohematology Reference Laboratory Technologist. I joined ASCLS in 2011 to learn about and stay current for my profession and to have the ability to network with other professionals locally and nationally. I am excited about the NPNMF this year as a new opportunity to learn and share with our members our initiatives and being able to collaborate with other NPNMF members to reach our committee goals."



Stephanie Godfrey, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region VI
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"I got involved in ASCLS while a student at Rose State College in Midwest City, Oklahoma. I was nominated to be the student representative for 2013-2014 as well as selected to attend the Annual Meeting in Chicago this past July. Now I will be the New Professional to represent ASCLS-Oklahoma as well as Region VII for 2014-2015. I have the honor to mentor for our new student representative that will be selected soon. I enjoy being involved in ASCLS in order to network with other like-minded professionals, learn more about my new career field and be cultivate my leadership skills. I look forward to encouraging all new laboratory technology students to get involved in their state, regional and national levels of ASCLS. I work at Community Hospital in Oklahoma City and enjoy my job, my colleagues and my new career!"

Introducing the 2014-2015 NPNMF Leadership

"I got involved with ASCLS because I was told by an instructor that ASCLS offered all the things I enjoyed doing on a professional level. Things like the ability to continue learning, the opportunities to network and meet people from around the world, the chance to develop leadership skills to help my peers, and so much more. The most important thing I was told was that by joining ASCLS I would be having more than just a job, I'd be stepping into a career. I am excited to be a part of the NPNMF this year, because I know that we are the future of ASCLS as well as the profession of Medical Laboratory Science.

That being said, I want to work toward a better, stronger, and more prosperous future for our organization and our profession!"



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"The ASCLS is an investment in my future. My pride in my profession and peers drives me to stay involved. Out of all of the organizations that a clinical laboratory scientist could subscribe to, the ASCLS is the only one that truly fights for the advancement of the clinical scientist. For me, the ASCLS is the dividing line between a common job and a career. I just needed to ask myself what side of the line I wanted to be on."

"I joined ASCLS while I was a student due to the influence of my professors. They are passionate about this organization and have instilled that passion in me. I have had the pleasure of actively participating at the state level in Texas as a Student Forum Board member and as a Student Forum Vice-Chair at the national level. Recently, I moved to California and am working for VA Medical Center- Livermore Division. I have been appointed Region X Communications Coordinator and I will do my best to fulfill my role and represent ASCLS and my new region! I look forward to collaborating with other new professionals and new members that share the passion for the lab profession and for ASCLS."



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