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NPNMF

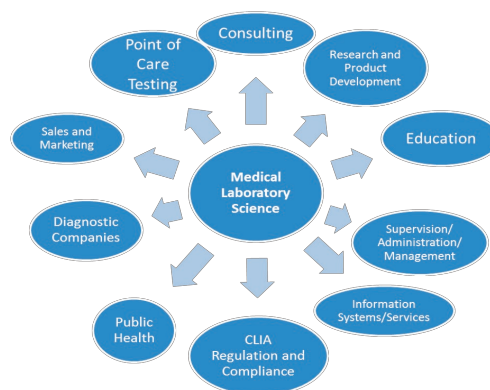
ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF NEW PROFESSIONALS AND NEW MEMBERS AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A PROMISING FUTURE.

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.

Medical Laboratory Science: Not Just Bench Work

By: Ian Wallace, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}, Region VIII NPNMF Representative and New Professional Representative to the Promotion of the Profession Committee



During my time as a Medical Laboratory Scientist I have heard over and over again how, “there is nowhere to go as a bench tech” or “I feel stuck in this profession”. This jaded attitude towards our career is very frustrating to me, especially considering the fact that I have met so many individuals whose careers span throughout the workforce, yet each and every one of them began as a bench tech in some way. Utilizing this knowledge, I decided to reach out to the ASCLS community to gain some insight into the types of positions available to those who have a background as an MLS. I asked each individual to provide a summary as to what they do, as well as, how and/or why they decided to pursue their specific career. The participants in the article also provided their email addresses in order to answer questions, provide information, and even mentor those who are also interested in the following opportunities that stem from an MLS.

Education:

Gilma Roncancio-Weemer: Serving as a program director for a medical laboratory science/medical laboratory technician program is an excellent way to maintain your connection with the clinical laboratory while mentoring and developing future laboratory professionals. As required by NAACLS, our accrediting agency, “the program director must: be responsible for the organization, administration, instruction, evaluation, continuous quality improvement, curriculum planning and development, directing other program faculty/staff, and general effectiveness of the pro-

gram”. A minimum of three years teaching experience along with MLS/MT certification, a master’s or doctoral degree, and knowledge of certification and NAACLS accreditation are required to meet the NAACLS qualifications. However, academic and hospital based programs may have additional requirements.

As a clinical instructor for the hospital based program which I now direct I was able to not only share the knowledge I attained but also contribute to the professional development of my future co-workers. When the opportunity arose to become the program’s assistant director and then director I jumped at the chance to help shape students into laboratory professionals. As I hear from our graduates about how well prepared they are for their positions and I see them advance in their careers I am reminded about the contributions our program made to their success. I feel extremely fortunate to have found such a rewarding career! (grwcls@comcast.net)

Supervision:

Bill Hunt: Laboratory management (supervision) handles the interface with multiple departments outside of the laboratory in addition to the day to day operations of the laboratory. This would include strategic planning (as departments in the hospital add/close services), human resource issues, technical issues, vendors, quality issues and a myriad of unexpected events that don’t easily fit into any category. Laboratory management accomplishes little without the contribution of staff.



Medical Laboratory Science: Not Just Bench Work (Continued)

By: Ian Wallace, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region VIII Representative and New Professional Representative on the Promotion to the Profession Committee

One of the main reasons I moved into laboratory management was because I liked planning and dealing with the unexpected. My MBA has a concentration in Decision Sciences, it was the exploration of the why things are done or errors occurs that have always interested me and wanting to see both the details and the big picture.

William.Hunt@uphs.upenn.edu

Information Services:

Scott Aikey: I work in Information Services at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Most, if not all, hospitals have a large hospital Information Services department. Some IS departments include Laboratory Information Services (LIS) as a part of the larger department and some LIS departments are a part of the Clinical Laboratory. At CHOP, the LIS team is a part of the larger Hospital IS department. Most Hospital IS departments are split into multiple divisions which might include Application Support, Infrastructure Support, IS Security, etc. Application support involves the support of the hospital's various applications, such as the LIS, as well as other clinical systems such as the hospital's Electronic Medical Record and those systems using in other departments such as Radiology, Pharmacy, etc.

For me, moving into Hospital IS was a natural progression in my career. In every laboratory technologist position I ever held, I always gravitated toward the computer aspect of the job,

which was mostly the support of the LIS. After transferring to and working on an LIS team, it was a natural progression to move to the larger hospital IS department. I found that my clinical laboratory background was very useful and actually essential as



the projects at the time were implementing laboratory interfaces between Quest and LabCorp and our hospital's EMR. Over time, I learned more and more, got involved in more diverse projects and eventually got promoted to the position where I am today as a Director of Clinical Application Support. (aikey@email.chop.edu)

Public Health:

Dr. Rodney E. Rohde: I spent a decade as a public health microbiologist and molecular epidemiologist with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Bureau of Laboratories and Zoonosis Control Division prior to my academic career. While there, I helped establish the DSHS laboratory as an internationally recognized regional reference laboratory for rabies typing. I also participated in the internationally successful Oral Rabies Vaccination Program which helped eliminate canine rabies from parts of Texas. Rodney received the prestigious J.V.

Irons Award for Scientific Excellence from the DSHS Bureau of Laboratories for these efforts in rabies control and prevention. As a microbiologist, I was fascinated by the most dangerous microbes. I had worked with poliovirus during my MS (virology) and had begun reading various research articles about polio and other microbes. As I was finishing my MS, *The Hot Zone* (by Richard Preston) came out regarding the introduction of Ebola in to the US. I was hooked! I applied for an entry level job at the Texas DSHS laboratories as a Public Health Microbiologist. I actually started in the Newborn Screens area and learned a ton. But, I always had my eye on an opening in the Virus Isolation unit. As soon as a spot opened there, I applied and was selected. Eventually, an amazing opportunity presented itself in the form of a hybrid position – a molecular epidemiologist. I worked 50% in the rabies/arthovirus laboratory and 50% as a molecular epidemiologist in the DSHS Zoonosis Control Division. It was here that my career took off. I was asked to develop a Regional Rabies Virus Typing Lab for Texas so I got to spend a couple of internships with amazing mentors at CDC in their Rabies Lab, and also amazing mentors in the DSHS Rabies



**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.



Medical Laboratory Science: Not Just Bench Work (Continued)

By: Ian Wallace, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region VIII Representative and
New Professional Representative on the Promotion to the Profession Committee

Point of Care Testing (POCT):

Lab. I love my job in academia and the MLS environment but I often find myself thinking about sitting at the rabies bench or heading out to the field to help. (rrohde@txstate.edu)

Ruthann Ciszewski: Point of Care (POC) testing is also referred to as alternate site testing or bedside testing. It refers to laboratory testing that is performed at or near where care is

knowledge with non-laboratorians to help ensure quality testing. My background includes both a clinical laboratory science degree and educational training that were a great fit for teaching others.



CLIA Regulation and Compliance:

Lezlee Koch: Laboratory federal regulation and accreditation compliance is essential for all laboratories who are CLIA licensed and is a requirement to perform laboratory testing. As CLIA federal regulation and/or accreditation agency standards change, laboratories must implement change within specific timeframes to remain CLIA licensed and sometimes these laboratories require assistance in monitoring for changes and interpreting the regulations to determine the actions that they may need to take.



being given to the patient and that is performed by a non-laboratorian. The location could be at the patient bedside in the hospital, on the nursing unit, in the operating room, or in a physician's office. The person performing the test could be a medical assistant, patient care technician, LPN, RN, respiratory therapist, perfusionist, physician assistant and even a resident or a physician. The most common POC tests include: glucose via the glucose meter, dipstick urinalysis, urine hCG testing, specific gravity by refractometer, fecal/stool occult blood, pH testing strep testing, mono testing, hemoglobin, electrolytes and blood gas testing. Especially useful is a test the laboratory does not perform: ACT testing (activated clotting times for higher dosing of heparin during cardiac catheterization or open heart surgery) via POC coagulation instruments.

There is a lot of basic instruction about laboratory processes such as the concepts of QC, false positive and negative reactions, and regulatory rules that healthcare employees who perform "simple" POC testing don't know about. They lack basic instruction in laboratory techniques and principles. It is difficult to believe, but many non-laboratorians don't understand concepts like performing QC before patient testing. Or taking the time to troubleshoot when QC doesn't perform as expected, and then remembering to document actions taken. They have numerous other responsibilities directly related to patient care that often take priority, and the laboratory testing is just a minor task. Someone who takes a position in POCT must have good communication skills with all levels of hospital employees in order to explain, mentor, and coach those with varying educational backgrounds. So it is up to the laboratorians to monitor testing to ensure that testing performed outside the laboratory meets quality and regulatory standards. ruthannlovesmusic@yahoo.com

representatives, military professionals, forensic science, and the list goes on and on are all possible. I want to personally thank all of those who helped contribute to this article. You all are the ones who open the doors to opportunity and it has been a pleasure to work with you on this article. I hope this article has helped expose you to what you can accomplish in the field. With our knowledge we have the ability to grow and pursue our passions; it is all just a matter of taking the first step in order to do so!

As a practicing laboratory manager for many years, I have expanded my knowledge in these regulations, identified sites and organizations that require monitoring and produce communications and resources specific to new and/or revised regulations to laboratories within our hospital-based outreach program, health system and ASCLS-SD. This type of communication assists laboratory professionals in being educated on current regulations, alerted on changes that will require action within their laboratories to assure compliance with regulations and provides the practicing professional resources to assure that quality laboratory services are provided. (lezleek@sio.midco.net)

When I took the position in POCT, I wanted to share my lab

As you can see, the opportunities surrounding our career outside of a bench are nearly limitless, and the examples I have written about are just the "tip of the iceberg" when it comes to what we can do with our backgrounds. A career in consulting, research and development, sales



ASCLS Leadership Academy: Building a Strong Foundation for Emerging and Exceptional Leaders

By: Jonathan R. Gusilatar, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}
ASCLS NPNMF Region IV Communications Coordinator



The ASCLS Leadership Academy prides itself with nurturing and mentoring ASCLS members for current and future leadership roles within ASCLS.

I am currently in the Class of 2014-2015. My fellow colleagues and I are halfway through the program and I have personally benefited a lot from the ASCLS Leadership Academy. The program provides positive influence to learn new responsibilities, develop a vision for the future and utilize tools to communicate that vision.

Moreover, I have the opportunity to be mentored by former and current ASCLS leaders and educators. Mentorship is a critical component of success and improved career satisfaction. These mentors are valuable in providing a vision, perspective and also sparking my passion and commitment for ASCLS and the profession.

The ASCLS Leadership Academy provides a great opportunity for networking. Networking is a critical component of sustaining trust, cultivating relationships and resources; ultimately expanding your influences. These meaningful relationships are catalysts for professional development and career advancement.

The 12-month program includes a series of notable sessions that includes ASCLS 101, History of the Profession, Leadership Styles, Communication Skills, Advocacy, Time Management, Mentoring/ Coaching, Conflict Management Skills, Team Building, Networking, Recruiting Leaders and Strategic Planning.

P.A.C.E.TM continuing education credits will also be rewarded for each of the sessions completed. These leadership-related sessions are transferable to a professional and personal setting and can be integrated in every aspect of our daily lives.

The ASCLS Leadership Academy requires personal time, effort and financial commitment to successfully complete the program. Participants are expected to attend sessions in conjunction with two ASCLS Annual Meetings, and the Legislative Symposium. The program correspondingly requires pre and post-assignments and conference calls during the 12-month period. Furthermore, a group project that will benefit ASCLS will also be presented at the ASCLS Annual Meeting.

Testimonials from Past Graduates:

The ASCLS Leadership Academy gave me a great introduction into leadership theory. I am in a PhD program in Health Sciences and the four core areas of thought are leadership, education, research, and

science. The leadership academy introduced some basic leadership theory so when I saw it again in my PhD courses, it was familiar and easily comprehended. I also took a lot away from leadership academy that I use in my everyday career. I am constantly relying on my time management tools and communication skills as well as mentoring insight to help my students. -Toula Castillo

The Leadership Academy has helped to make me a better leader within my current role as a supervisor of a STAT laboratory. I do a lot of outreach with the nurses, residents, and physicians in our emergency department. The tools I was exposed to help me to evaluate the individual groups of people that I interact with and how to better relay the message I am trying to send so that it gets communicated effectively. Some of the things I have learned, like time management, have helped me to be extremely productive. For example, getting my MBA while working full-time and having a family. To sum up, the lessons learned have been life-long. -Lisa Bakken.

Congratulations to the 2015-2016 incoming class of Leadership Academy: Gretchen Brocksmith of Metairie, LA, Stephanie Nobilt of Philadelphia, PA, Kemorine Roberts of Tucker, GA, Renee Sutton of Armada, MI, and Karen Williams of Baskin, LA!



IFBLS: International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science, When Laboratory Science Goes Worldwide

By: Ian Wallace, MLS (ASCP)CM, Region VIII NPNMF Representative and New Professional Representative to the Promotion of the Profession Committee

Three years ago I attended my first ASCLS Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas. Among the lectures, the vendor show, and House of Delegates my ears managed to catch something called IFBLS. What followed was a discussion that opened my eyes to not only how vast our career is, but that our work in ASCLS can reach a global level. I HAD to find out more information, not only to gain a greater understanding as to what this organization is about, but also to potentially figure out a way to be a part of this group. After some searching, I found that Cathy Otto PhD, MBA, MLS(ASCP)cm is our Chief Delegate for ASCLS in this organization and I decided to reach out to her...

1) What is your background?

Professionally, I am a Medical Laboratory Scientist, and as such I have held a variety of positions in a number of institutions. My first job after graduation was as a staff MLS on the night shift at a medical school, where I worked in hematology and urinalysis, chemistry and transfusion services. For a majority of my clinical practice, I supervised a large medical office laboratory for a national managed care organization. After earning my doctorate I taught Hematology, Immunology and Laboratory Management courses in three University-based Medical Laboratory Science programs and I was the Clinical Coordinator for

one of the programs. Currently, I am the Dean of Health Occupations, Physical Education and Business at a community college.

Within ASCLS, I have held many positions at state, regional and national levels. I joined ASCLS as a student and I began my 'career' in ASCLS as the Student Representative for ASCLS-Oregon. Nationally, I was Director-at-Large, Secretary-Treasurer, and President. In addition to my current responsibility as Chair of the ASCLS Patient Safety Committee, I have been the Chief Delegate for ASCLS to the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science since 2012.

2) What is IFBLS?

IFBLS is the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science. It was founded in 1954 and held its first international congress (educational meeting) in 1961 in Sweden. As a federation, IFBLS is a professional society made up of professional societies. Each country is represented by one professional society, and currently ASCLS is one of 33 associations representing 31 countries. It has a board of directors and it has a representative body, the General Assembly of Delegates, in which each country sends their Chief Delegate. Its mission, vision and goals are to promote the education and development of

biomedical laboratory scientists and to develop international partnerships and programs.

3) How did you get involved with IFBLS?

To some degree, I became involved in IFBLS by happenstance. In 2012, our Chief Delegate could not attend the IFBLS World Congress, so it was left to me to serve in that role at the IFBLS World Congress in Berlin. Because I had followed our participation in IFBLS for many years, and had hoped to attend that meeting as a member of the ASCLS delegation at a future meeting, I was happy when the opportunity presented itself to serve as the Chief Delegate in 2012. Since then I have been reappointed by the ASCLS Board of Directors to serve as the Chief Delegate for 2013, 2014 and 2015.

4) How does one get involved with IFBLS?

ASCLS only has one chief delegate (which is true for all member organizations), however one can attend the World Congress as a participant. Congresses are hosted by member organizations in even numbered years. The next World Congress will be held in Kobe, Japan in late August--early September, 2016. Other ways to participate do not require travel or waiting for a meeting to be held. There are opportunities to help other biomedical laboratory scientists through a



IFBLS: International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science, When Laboratory Science Goes Worldwide (Cont.)

By: Ian Wallace, MLS (ASCP)CM, Region VIII NPNMF Representative and New Professional Representative to the Promotion of the Profession Committee

Collaboration Project. These projects are a partnership between two or more countries to improve medical laboratory services in less developed countries. There is a section on the IFBLS website describing collaboration projects. Additionally, the chief delegate may ask for input from ASCLS colleagues to provide input, opinions and expertise to specific projects on an as needed basis.

5) How has IFBLS helped you in your career?

Both my previous and current employer appreciated my involvement in the international professional arena. I consider my involvement in IFBLS to be both professionally and personally enriching. I have served as ASCLS Chief Delegate to IFBLS for 3 meetings--two World Congresses (2012 and 2014) and one Chief Delegate Meeting (2013).

At this point, I feel that I have made great professional connections with many of the delegates. I have contacted many of these colleagues to assist in a student project for an American colleague. Similarly, several of my international colleagues have contacted me with specific requests for information.

6) Are there any experiences that you've had with the organization that stand out to you?

Like my experiences within ASCLS, it is the people that I have met that have made my participation in the organization rewarding. One of my favorite memories--one that is purely based upon having fun--is from the Banquet at the World Congress in Taipei, Taiwan in October 2014. The food, hospitality and entertainment were superb, yet it was the participation by all of the attendees that made that event memorable. Although, there was a band and disk jockey to provide the music, at one point during the evening, various groups of people began going on-stage to sing karaoke. The fact that I also participated in singing with the native English speakers makes

that evening both remarkable and memorable.

7) Do you have anything else to add in regard to the organization?

We talk about how the world is becoming smaller and how we are more alike than we are different; after attending the IFBLS meetings, I would agree with that statement. (Bio)Medical Laboratory Scientists have the same attributes, commitments to their patients and concerns regardless of what language we speak or what country we live in. We all believe that the patient is at the heart of our care and that our profession is critical to the well-being of patients worldwide.

I want to thank Dr. Cathy Otto for her time in answering these questions. Perhaps one day all of us can go and experience the World Congress as either a delegate or participant!



Legislative Symposium 2015 Review

By: Gretchen Brocksmith, ASCLS NPNMF Vice-Chair and New Professional Rep. to the Government Affairs Committee

“My second time attending the Legislative Symposium was much easier, less terrifying, and I understood so much more about issues that the laboratory faces. The meetings with the Legislative Aids went smoothly not only because I had a year of work experience behind me, 2 years of being on the Government Affairs Committee, and I understood what I was discussing. I could answer questions with confidence and give guidance to all new comers. This year I actually felt I was helping my profession and that my voice was getting heard.”

Legislative Symposium 2015 Review

By: Ian Wallace, Region VIII NPNMF Representative and New Professional Representative to the Promotion of the Profession Committee

Year after year I continue to be amazed by the Legislative Symposium! The ability to speak to my constituents and voice my concerns in regards to issues that directly affect me as a laboratorian, as well as my peers, is an incredible experience and a vital one in terms of securing the future of our career. This year, with topics such as grant funding for potential new students and educators, budget concerns, etc. we met with health aides from around the state of Colorado, all of who seemed to realize how important the laboratory is and wanted to know how to help. I look forward to following up with these individuals and hopefully creating a relationship which will yield a positive result for the field of Medical Laboratory Science.

Performance Reviews

How to make it easier on yourself this year

By: Karen Larson, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region V Representative

If your employer is like mine, performance reviews only come around once a year if you have been working there more than a year. If you are in your first year, you might have quarterly or semi-annual reviews. From December through February, there is a heightened level of stress in our lab because of looming performance reviews. In December, employees are cramming to get their self-evaluation submitted before the end of the year. People are racking their brains to remember all the amazing things they did to contribute to the team's success over the last 365 days. Others have given up completely, deciding to turn in a partially completed evaluation as the holidays draw near and personal plans interfere with the best of intentions. Then, the stress magically vanishes once you've turned in your self-assessment. Right? Of course not! Now you're even more stressed waiting and trying to guess if your supervisor will remember enough about your contributions to give you the high rating you've worked hard all year to earn.

Sounds like a nightmare, right? The good news is it doesn't have to be this way! Now is the perfect time to develop new habits to make preparing for your performance review easier, less stressful, and dare I say it... fun! Here are some of the top things you can do to simplify the process.



Know how you'll be judged.

What are your organization's goals? Many departments will publish a document early in the year that serves as a guide for employees and supervisors on each evaluation category. Think of it like your syllabus. Here is how you'll be graded, but instead of an "A" at the end you'll be looking at a great raise. The best ones will illustrate real work examples of what qualifies for

each rating within each category. Most will at least give a short description about that category to help you categorize all that you do.

Create goals for yourself.

Next, ask yourself, "How can I use my unique skills and talents to help my organization achieve these goals?" This might mean taking on a new project, getting involved in training others, or



seeking out new responsibilities. Take time to think about how you will use your attitude and personality to contribute. Can you help keep others inspired by coming to work ready to take on the day's challenges? Your day-to-day attitude and disposition is a big factor in how your co-workers and supervisors interact with you, which affects your performance at work.

Stay connected with your supervisor.

Know who will be evaluating you at the end of the year. Make sure that your evaluation is not the only time you meet with them one-on-one during the year. After you've created specific goals for yourself that support your organization's goals, run them by your supervisor. Ask for their advice and opinion on what you see your role as. They might even have the perfect project for you that you weren't aware of. By demonstrating your commitment to the organization's success, they will see you as an engaged employee who is actively trying to contribute. Make sure to share your successes with them throughout the year and touch base with them regularly, both in person and through e-mails. They will feel more confident giving you high marks if they know you and the great work you've been doing.

Let your e-mails do the work for you.

It's time to get organized! Create a new folder in

your work e-mail titled "Performance Review." Start filing e-mails that show your progress and contributions into this folder. Save any "kudos" e-mails from co-workers here as well as examples of the things you're going above and beyond in. You can also send yourself e-mails with messages about something that you just did that exemplifies those top performance behaviors. Use it to stash reminders to yourself to use later so you don't forget those great moments that really stand out.

Write your self-evaluation in real time.

This might be the hardest tip to follow. If there is an electronic copy of the self-evaluation form available at the beginning of the year, save it to your documents and update it regularly. Try to look at it once a week to add new examples while they are fresh in your mind. By the time December rolls around, you'll just need to do some editing and final touches instead of feeling immense pressure from a completely blank document. You will thank yourself for taking small amounts of time throughout the year to complete the evaluation. Chances are it will more fully reflect the growth you've experienced that year and the goals you've achieved.

Be confident in yourself!

You are now ready to go into your performance review with confidence! There shouldn't be any surprises to catch you off guard because you've kept in touch with your supervisor throughout the year. You've put in the time and thoughtfulness to contributing on a daily basis and now is the time that you'll get acknowledged for your dedication. Your review will be a rewarding experience where you and your supervisor can reflect on the great work you've done, the ways you have grown, and what you're looking forward to in the coming year!



2014-2015 NPNMF Leadership Testimonies

"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."



Jasmin Davis, Past Chair & Region VII
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Crystal Mino, Board Liaison and National
First Year Professional Director
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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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New Members Forum Chair
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Gretchen Brocksmith, New Professionals
and New Members Forum Vice-Chair
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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!!"

2014-2015 NPNMF Leadership Testimonies

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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Jacqueline Raetz, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region I Communication Coordinator
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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."



Amber Chambers, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region II Communication Coordinator
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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."

2014-2015 NPNMF Leadership Testimonies

"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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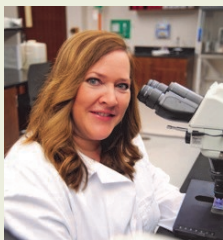
Karen Larson, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region V
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"I work as an acute care MLS for Fairview Health Services at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis. I first joined ASCLS during my clinical internship in 2012, serving 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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Mary Worthing, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region VII
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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!"

2014-2015 NPNMF Leadership Testimonies

"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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Jordan Warmack, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region IX
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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."



Rosemarie Nguyen, New Professionals and New Members Forum Region X
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