

Insights

Winter 2011

February 15, 2011

From the Office of the President

Greetings from Peoria! Let me begin with a Happy New Year wish to all! May the new year bring us more successes in professional development and achievement of our goals!

One of my goals is to make our profession more visible and known by others, including other health care professionals. Most laboratories that I know of are located in the basement or an area far from sight of "high traffic" areas. That fact we can't change. However, we can break out of the lab vault!

We need to make ourselves more visible so we can change perceptions. Take part in committee activities. Talk to school children. Volunteer for various organizations in your community.

During this high unemployment period, it is an ideal time to promote our profession. People listen more attentively when they hear there is an increased job demand in the clinical laboratory science field. Wherever you work, I am sure there are clinical laboratory open positions.

Even within the Peoria area, there are quite a few openings!

Have you heard the news? Clinical Laboratory Science is one of the top 50 best careers (all categories including health care) in 2011 according to the U.S. News. You can find the article via this link <http://money.usnews.com/money/careers>. I am thrilled to have seen this article which I show to prospective students. As the snow starts melting, I look

forward to my first blooms of forsythia. By the time my irises open, I know I will soon also see friends from all over the State. I hope you make plans to attend the upcoming Annual State Conference. Planning for the Conference at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Peoria is well on its way to the final steps. More than

20 scientific sessions from all major disciplines will be offered for your professional enrichment. Do come to learn, to mingle with old friends, to make new friends, or even to scope out new opportunities. The program and the registration will be available by early March. Watch for the flyer in your mailbox and check the ASCLS-IL website, recently changed to www.ascls-il.com. Don't forget to bookmark your



newest favorite site! See you on April 13 - 15 in Peoria!



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Creating A “Thank God It’s Monday!” Workplace

By: Eleanor Wolfram

Before you can blink it will be time for the annual *National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week* (NMLPW, April 24 - 30, 2011). NMLPW, which began in 1975, is a time set aside for the annual recognition of laboratory professionals. An enormous amount of energy – and rightfully so - is spent on gearing up for and participating in celebrations and festivities. Jumpstarting the building of competency skills during the week and instilling continuous programs for the remainder of the fifty one

“Everyone likes to feel good about their work product.”

weeks, could extend the NMLPW’s “good feelings” from April 2011 on through April 2012 (and hopefully beyond)!

Everyone likes to feel good about their work product. One of the best ways to achieve this is to ensure that workplace competency skills are up to snuff. Feeling and being competent in what we do relieves anxiety, reduces stress and increases optimal performance. As an auditor, I’ve personally witnessed high levels of staff poise and confidence, when laboratory employees feel good about their skill sets during internal quality audits and the reviews conducted by external regulatory inspectors.

Embracing skills building activities doesn’t have to take a lot of time and due to everyone’s budgetary constraints can be accomplished with pennies on the dollar. The following

are some approaches:

Sharing Creates A Positive “State of Mind”

Start with a monthly calendar of exercises and pin the calendar on your laboratory’s bulletin board. There are loads of “freebie” online CEU trainings that should be posted as soon as any member of the department receives an announcement. Encourage sharing of articles and tips.

“Quality” versus “Quantity” Of Time Is The Word

Ongoing “short” competency in-services can be a powerful agent for changing the department’s atmosphere, thereby creating a positive, productive workplace. Something as short as a ten minute session can create a “proactive” stance especially when it is *meaningful* and staff can use information at their work station. Less theory and more practical “how to” information is critical. Remember, it is not the “quantity of time”, but instead the “quality of time” that is valuable.

“Interactive” Training Is Not Confined To Computers

The minds of laboratory staff are stimulated when an “interactive” blended style of competency in-services are provided. Having a variety and assortment of training exercises appeals to everyone’s different learning styles. Mixing up the teach-

ing approaches with short-fill in puzzles, videos, short reading materials, slides, role-play, on-line courses, webinars and demonstrate - delivery exercises - to name a few methods – is sure to stimulate the learning experience.

In Order To “Teach” You Have To Be A Learner

Peer reviews, peer teaching and peer coaching are all excellent methods to “cement” skills. We all know that in order to teach a subject, you have to learn it first. In fact, teaching actually reinforces the material in the teacher’s mind before it is passed on to the student (or in this case the peer coworker). Another benefit of peer / coworker training involvement is that it fosters team building. And as we all know, it takes a team to truly have a successful laboratory enterprise.

Conclusion

This year let’s push the envelope by making our annual NMLPW - week long celebration activity into a year long, day-to-day learning experience! Hopefully, the competency skills building methods mentioned above, as well as, some of your own creative ideas will bring about continuous team engagement and will have staff in your laboratory screaming, “*Thank God It’s Monday!*”

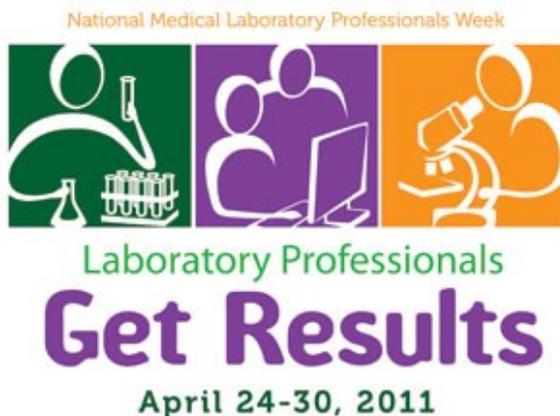
Eleanor Wolfram
(ewolf@qutips.com) is a certified regulatory compliance auditor.

The 36th annual National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week will be held April 24-30, 2011. The week provides a unique opportunity to increase public awareness and understanding about the role laboratory professionals play in health care.

Celebration of NMLPW began in 1975 by the American Society for Medical Technology, now ASCLS. In recent years, other clinical laboratory organizations have helped serve as co-sponsors. NMLPW takes place during the fourth week in April of each year, and is coordinated by a collaborative committee with representatives from various organizations, including ASCLS.

Visit the ASCLS web site (<http://www.ascls.org>) for more information about planning lab week activities in your lab!

2011 Lab Week Sponsors



AABB
 AACC
 American Medical Technologists
 American Society of Cytopathology
 American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
 American Society for Clinical Pathology
 American Society for Cytotechnology
 American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics
 American Society for Microbiology
 Association of Public Health Laboratories
 CLMA
 College of American Pathologists
 National Society for Histotechnology

ASCLS-IL Gets a New Home on the 'Net

If you tried visiting the ASCLS-IL web site from October to the beginning of November at the end of 2010, you probably weren't very successful.

ASCLS-IL now has a new home on the Internet: <http://www.ascls-il.com>.

Be sure to update your bookmarks and favorites so you can keep in touch with the latest information re-

garding ASCLS-IL.

If you've never visited the site before, be sure to check out all of the features and content, and read the ASCLS-IL blog which is updated monthly by Melissa Collins, the ASCLS-IL membership committee chair.

On the web site you can also find out which branch society you belong to if you are new to ASCLS-IL, as well as a directory of leadership officers and their contact information. We also provide links to other laboratory professional organizations from our site. You can also download past editions of the *Insights* newsletter.

2011-2012 Leadership Academy Applications Available

Do you have a great deal of passion for ASCLS and the laboratory profession? Do you want to have a voice in the shape of ASCLS and your state society? Do you want to develop skills and abilities that you can use in your professional role as a laboratory practitioner? If you've answered yes to these questions and more, then you should consider applying to the ASCLS 2011-2012 Leadership Academy.

The ASCLS Leadership Academy was designed to identify and prepare ASCLS members with potential for current and future leadership roles in the organization by providing a structured program of study in critical leadership topics. The program benefits the society as well as the individual by developing skills that can be transferred to the work setting as well as providing opportunities to learn from and dialogue with current ASCLS leaders.

The application process is competitive, and the deadline for the application is March 31. For more information, or to download a complete Leadership Application packet, please go to the Leadership Academy page on the ASCLS web site (<http://www.ascls.org/members/Academy/index.asp>). Only First Year Professional or Professional members may apply for the Leadership Academy.

ASCLS –IL 2011 Elections

It's time again to hold elections for the 2011-2012 ASCLS -IL Board of Directors. We have a full slate of candidates this year, each of whom are remarkably qualified to serve in the positions for which they have been nominated.

This year, we will be voting by acclamation to approve the candidates for the following uncontested positions: President-elect, Yolanda Sanchez and Treasurer Sarah Coate. The position of Board Member at Large is a contested

election. Claudia Miller and Nicholas Moore are running for this position.

Two individuals will be voted into their position by acclamation for serving on the Nominations committee. They are Jeanne Isabel and Robbin Killam.

See below for each candidates biographical information.

President-Elect: *Yolanda Sanchez*

Yolanda Sanchez is from the Chicago and is running for the position of President -elect of ASCLS-IL. Yolanda has been extremely active at the branch level and is currently serving as the Chicago branch president of ASCLS-IL. Her primary goal has been to work on ways to recruit members into the profession and into the professional organizations. She is collaboratively working on the development of membership recruitment packets that can be distributed to high school science teachers and guidance counselors to encourage students with a love of math and science to consider a career in medical lab science.

After completing her bachelor's degree at DePaul, she enrolled in the medical technology program at Evanston Hospital, now apart of the NorthShore University Health System. Sanchez completed her SBB certification in 2004.

She has accepted a full-time academic position as the director of the SBB program at Rush University. Prior to this, she served as a part-time instructor in blood banking at Rush University and as consultation supervisor and education coordinator in the Blood Center at Rush University Medical Center. Sanchez will complete her master's degree in health systems management in June.



Treasurer: *Sarah Coate*

Sarah Coate is a member of the ASCLS-IL Springfield-Southern branch and has been nominated for Treasurer of ASCLS-IL.

Sarah has been a proud member of ASCLS for the past 20 years. She serves as the laboratory director over outreach services at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

Coate's goals as Treasurer are to increase her visibility within the organization, network with peers, serve on committees and work with other members to help revitalize the Central branch society of ASCLS-IL.



Board Member: *Claudia Miller*



Claudia Miller has been involved with ASCLS for more than 30 years. During her 40 years as a laboratory professional, she has continually worked to promote the profession. She has volunteered by serving on various committees, worked heavily to improve student recruitment, served as secretary for the state and also as the Chicago branch president. She earned her bachelors degree from Loyola University, a masters degree from Central Michigan University and her PhD from Northwestern University.

Miller believes that there are three goals ASCLS must have. First, we need to work to attract qualified individuals into laboratory medicine, and work with them and mentor them. Second, we need to publicize our profession so that the general public recognizes the important work we do. Finally, we need to maintain the interest of professionals so that they are educationally stimulated and remain active in the society and the profession.

Board Member: *Nicholas Moore*



Nicholas Moore is from the Chicago branch of ASCLS-IL, and has been active within the society since he was a student. He currently serves ASCLS-IL as the administrator for the web site and as the co-editor of the *Insights*, along with Demetra Castillo. He is also the President-elect for the Chicago branch and the serves on the Member Services Committee at the national level, and serves as the Region VI New Professional representative.

Moore recently began a new career with Kindred Hospital Chicago North, working as their laboratory manager. He will be responsible for reorganizing the clinical laboratory and bringing testing back in-house. Prior to this he worked as a bench tech in hematology and chemistry at Rush University Medical Center and as a teaching assistant in the medical laboratory science program at Rush University.

Nominations: *Robbin Killam & Jeanne Isabel*



Robbin Killam

Robbin Killam is completing her second of two consecutive terms as treasurer of ASCLS-IL. She is an active member of the Springfield-Southern branch and works as the Education Coordinator at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield. Killam is passionate about ASCLS and the roles laboratory professionals play in health care. She is looking forward to serving on the nominations committee and encouraging others to become leaders within the profession.

Jeanne Isabel is an associate professor and program director of the CLS program at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. She has served ASCLS-IL as a previous past president, finance committee chair and annual meeting chair and co-chair. She wants to serve on the nominations and elections committee to help recruit new professionals with outstanding leadership capabilities to be mentored into leadership positions within the state society.



Jeanne Isabel

ASCLS-IL Omicron Sigma Award

NOMINATION FORM

Purpose: Omicron Sigma is the ASCLS President's Honor Roll for outstanding service. It provides lasting recognition of those dedicated members who volunteer their personal resources, time and energy to ASCLS-IL. Recognition is at the national, regional and state levels.

This Nominee is submitted by:

(Name, Branch, and email)

NOMINEES' INFORMATION:

Name: _____ ASCLS # _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Work Address: _____

Email _____

Years of Service in ASCLS-IL _____

Briefly describe the activity(ies)/contributions/honors for which nominee is being recognized:

POSTMARK NOMINATION DEADLINE: MARCH 4, 2011

return to Carol Becker carol.e.becker@osfhealthcare.org

School of CLS/HT

OSF Saint Francis Medical Center

530 NE Glen Oak Avenue

Peoria, IL 61637

ASCLS-IL Educator of the Year Award

NOMINATION FORM

Purpose: This award serves to recognize an ASCLS-IL member/educator for outstanding achievements, contributions, and service to the professional and celebrates the value of professional ability and commitment.

This Nominee is submitted by:

(Name, Branch, and email)

NOMINEES' INFORMATION:

Name: _____ ASCLS # _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Work Address: _____

Email _____

Years of Service in ASCLS-IL _____

Briefly describe the educational activity(ies)/contributions/achievements for which nominee is being recognized:

POSTMARK NOMINATION DEADLINE: March 4, 2011

return to Carol Becker carol.e.becker@osfhealthcare.org

School of CLS/HT

OSF Saint Francis Medical Center

530 NE Glen Oak Avenue

Peoria, IL 61637

ASCLS-IL Keys to the Future Award

NOMINATION FORM

Purpose: This award serves to recognize and reward ASCLS members who have demonstrated their leadership potential to the organization and to provide these members with structured mentoring.

This Nominee is submitted by:

(Name, Branch, and email)

NOMINEES' INFORMATION:

Name: _____ ASCLS # _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Work Address: _____

Email _____

Years of Service in ASCLS-IL _____

Briefly describe the leadership activity(ies) for which nominee is being recognized:

POSTMARK NOMINATION DEADLINE: March 4, 2011

return to Carol Becker carol.e.becker@osfhealthcare.org

School of CLS/HT

OSF Saint Francis Medical Center

530 NE Glen Oak Avenue

Peoria, IL 61637

ASCLS-IL New Professional of the Year Award

NOMINATION FORM

Purpose: The ASCLS New Professional of the Year Award is awarded each year to recognize a member of ASCLS-IL who has contributed significantly to the field of clinical laboratory science and to the Society during his/her first to five years in the profession.

This Nominee is submitted by:

(Name, Branch, and email)

NOMINEES' INFORMATION:

Name: _____ ASCLS # _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Work Address: _____

Email _____

Years of Service in ASCLS-IL _____

Briefly describe the activity(ies)/contributions/honors for which nominee is being recognized:

POSTMARK NOMINATION DEADLINE: MARCH 4, 2011

return to Carol Becker carol.e.becker@osfhealthcare.org

School of CLS/HT

OSF Saint Francis Medical Center

530 NE Glen Oak Avenue

Peoria, IL 61637

ASCLS-IL Member of the Year Award

NOMINATION FORM

Purpose: This award serves to recognize an ASCLS-IL member who has contributed significantly over the past year or who has a long history of contribution, to the field of CLS and to the Society and who has, by outstanding example, inspired others. The MOY selected will have his/her name submitted to ASCLS for national consideration.

This Nominee is submitted by:

(Name, Branch, and email)

NOMINEES' INFORMATION:

Name: _____ ASCLS # _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Work Address: _____

Email _____

Years of Service in ASCLS-IL _____

Briefly describe the activity(ies)/contributions/honors for which nominee is being recognized:

POSTMARK NOMINATION DEADLINE: March 4, 2011

return to Carol Becker carol.e.becker@osfhealthcare.org

School of CLS/HT

OSF Saint Francis Medical Center

530 NE Glen Oak Avenue

Peoria, IL 61637

ASCLS-IL Member Recognition Certificate Award

NOMINATION FORM

Purpose: This award serves to recognize ASCLS-IL members who have contributed to the state or branch society or profession during the past year.

This Nominee is submitted by:

(Name, Branch, and email)

NOMINEES' INFORMATION:

Name: _____ ASCLS # _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Work Address: _____

Email _____

Years of Service in ASCLS-IL _____

Briefly describe the contribution for which nominee is being recognized:

POSTMARK NOMINATION DEADLINE: March 4, 2011

return to Carol Becker carol.e.becker@osfhealthcare.org

School of CLS/HT

OSF Saint Francis Medical Center

530 NE Glen Oak Avenue

Peoria, IL 61637



www.ascls-il.com

ASCLS-IL is an affiliate society of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and one of five states in ASCLS Region VI, which also includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

ASCLS serves as the voice of all clinical laboratory professionals, creating a vision for advancement of the clinical laboratory practice field, and advocating the value and the role of the profession ensuring safe, effective, efficient, equitable and patient-centered health care by:

- Promoting the value of the profession to healthcare and the public
- Uniting the profession to speak with one voice
- Advocating on behalf of the profession
- Promoting professional independence
- Enhancing quality standards and patient safety
- Ensuring workplace safety
- Providing professional development opportunities
- Promoting expanded roles and contributions of clinical laboratory professionals to the healthcare team
- Increasing diversity in the profession and expanding the voice

2011 Spring Meeting

April 13-15

Holiday Inn City Centre
Peoria, Illinois

Look for the full program soon!