



Bayou Tech Newsletter

FALL 2024

The MLT/MLS Newsletter for LSCLS

What is the Bayou Tech Newsletter?

The Bayou Tech Newsletter is prepared by the Louisiana State Clinical Laboratory Science (LSCLS) organization to keep professional and student members informed and engaged. From breaking news, research findings, to upcoming social and educational events, the Bayou Tech is here to provide you, the laboratory professionals of our state and region, with the current professional climate of laboratory science at our local and national levels.

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LSU Health Sciences Help Research Efforts of New Sepsis Assay

by Christen Diel, Newsletter Chair

LSU Health New Orleans was the national principal investigator and primary partner with Cytovale for work that led to the creation of a new sepsis test, the IntelliSep®.

Much of the research and clinical studies for this new technology took place in Baton Rouge, at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center and its Emergency Department.

The Cytovale System uses a combination of ultra-high resolution imaging, precision microfluidics, high throughput image analysis, computer vision, and machine learning to examine cell morphology and measure the level of immune cell activation. The IntelliSep sepsis test is the first application of this technology. and provides sepsis risk stratification results in 8mins!

GEUAX TIGERS

in Research

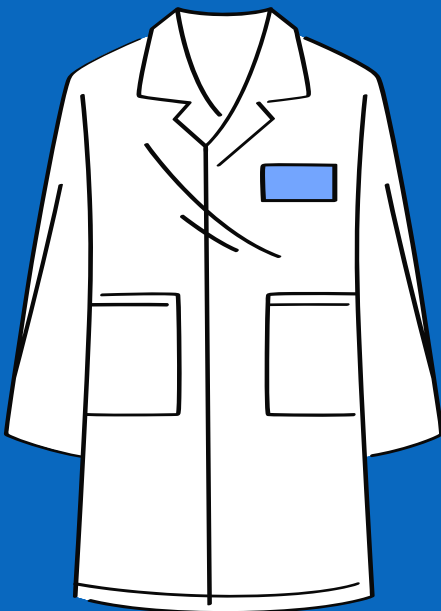


Early detection of sepsis is an invaluable capability for healthcare professionals. Quickly identifying sepsis is critical to saving lives, but until now, we've lacked a reliable tool to either recognize the condition or explore alternate diagnoses.

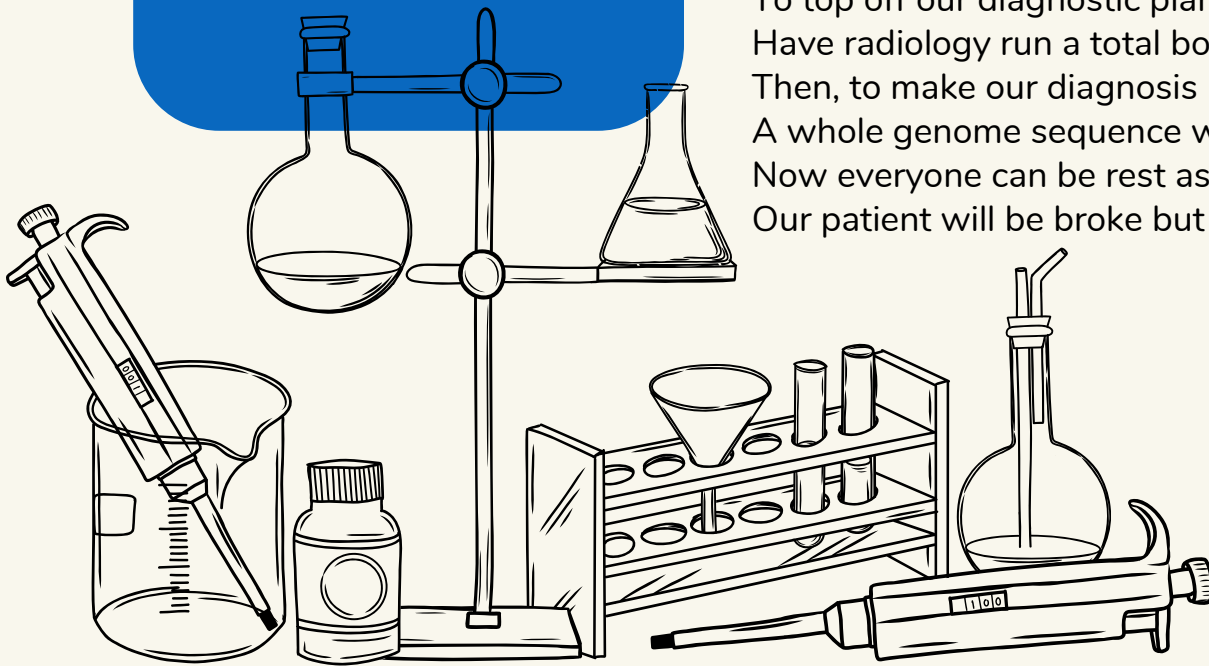
- Dr. Hollis 'Bud' O'Neal

DIAGNOSTIC DILEMMA: A CLINICAL LABORATORY POEM

by ClinLabNavigator



The patient is lying sick in bed
The history we have not read
Nor laid a hand upon his head
Whatever shall we do?
First we'll order lots of tests.
STAT twenty four- seven to give it our best
We'll start with CBC, LFT and BMP
How about hepatitis viruses A, B & C?
Golly gee, let's not forget twice daily Diff's and CMPs
And if the results don't quite agree
We'll blame the lab's accuracy!
Forget the mounting medical fee!
We'll start again with fiendish glee
And order them all repeatedly
We'll culture urine, blood and stool.
Measure a lactate and the microbiome gene pool.
Oops! Our patient is looking pale
Why does he appear so frail?
Have we made him iatrogenically anemic?
Time to call blood bank for a hematinic
And if the patient shakes, gasps and cries
A transfusion reaction workup would be wise
To top off our diagnostic plan
Have radiology run a total body scan
Then, to make our diagnosis more secure
A whole genome sequence we will procure
Now everyone can be rest assured
Our patient will be broke but completely cured



The 2024 JAM Experience!

Every year ASCLS hosts a national meeting where laboratory professionals including those in the military and genetic specialists come together to learn about new technologies, interesting case studies, and even governmental affairs that affect our every day policies and procedures. Read the following experiences of LSCLS members that attended the 2024 Joint Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia!

The educational opportunities at this JAM were plentiful and diverse. Topical subjects were well represented with lectures on the Fentanyl crisis and Artificial Intelligence well attended. The lectures on regulations were very helpful in my position as a Compliance Specialist. I am interested in any ways to promote our profession and the Labvocracy Update lecture gave me many ideas that I will incorporate in my journey to promote the lab. Pittsburgh is a beautiful city and this JAM was a wonderful blend of networking/educational opportunities and social interaction for everyone.

-Judy garic, LSCLS President

I had the amazing opportunity of being able to attend the 2024 JAM this July in Pittsburgh, PA! Attending with me was the LSCLS Secretary, Lakay'ja Dupree. Some of the things we were able to experience not only included traveling out of Louisiana to explore the city of Pittsburgh, but also getting to meet many other MLS Students, techs, and educators! One of my favorite parts about JAM was attending the educational sessions. There is such a wide variety of medicine and science to be discovered that I was completely unaware of. One of the biggest being the world of AI and what that looks like in the medical field. Many people will tell you there will come a time where techs are no longer needed in the lab but that is so far from the truth! The amount of work and dedication that goes behind ensuring the quality of each test is so important and could never be replaced by any form of computer or intelligence. I can relate to this personally as I am doing my rotations! We use a variation of analyzers to try and make the job and testing in a lab more efficient but in the event that analyzer goes down, it is up to us to not only fix it but to still ensure reliable results are turned out. I was also able to sit in on the House of Delegates and be a voting member! This was such a great time to not only learn more about the environment of the lab but also to see what problems we are constantly facing. One of these problems is inclusion and belonging. Sometimes, the hectic and stoic environment of the lab can make it extremely difficult for each tech to feel they truly have a place but the fact of the matter is everyone has a part that is vital to ensuring the correct care is delegated to patients which in turn ensures the health of our society. Our advisor, Mrs. Norma Bovina invited us to be her guests at the Alpha Sigma Tau dinner! This organization raises money to help educate other MLS Students whether that be funding their education through scholarship, travel grants, or offering support and resources for learning. This was such an eye opening experience to see just how big the lab world truly is. There may be times tech feel they are always in the background and not truly appreciated for the hard work they do but you are appreciated and extremely vital to helping develop a safer community!

-Jaci Ervin, LSCLS Developing Professionals Chair

ASCLS TODAY

ASCLS Today is the membership newsletter of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. Read more [HERE!](#)

Q&A

Ask Me Anything: Post MLS Degree Career Options and Advancements



Lydia Bertram



Mark De Luna



Heather Hilgert



Patty Jackman



Tywauna Wilson



ASCLS ASK ME ANYTHING

Get advice on career options, earning the DCLS, preparing for certifications and much more from the Developing Professionals Forum! Watch [HERE!](#)



The Off the Bench podcast series discusses scientific and not-so-scientific ideas in laboratory medicine. Join the ASCLS Off the Bench Facebook Group to continue the discussions and share your feedback. Let's share ideas and talk nerdy. Listen [HERE!](#)



The 2024 Labvocate Experience

Every year ASCLS sends interested laboratory professionals to lobby on Capitol Hill for import laws and regulations that govern how we provide healthcare to the public. Read about the experience of LSCLS members who attended!

Labvocate: A newbie's perspective

As a first-time attendee for Labvocate, I honestly wasn't sure what to expect, however, I can tell you that the experience was more than I would have ever imagined. We spent Monday hearing from ASCLS, AMT, PAMET-USA, legislative aides, Patrick Cooney the lobbyist, and other subject matter experts. They spent time giving all of us in the audience talking points, and information on how to go out and speak with legislators. They let us know in real-time what legislation the laboratory community is supporting, and its impact on things such as workforce shortages and laboratory reimbursement/payment schedules. A massive collective effort was made to ensure we were all prepared to go forth and speak to our respective legislators. Everyone was there with a common mission and goal to further the progress on laboratory legislation.

As a first timer I was immediately taken under the wings of others who had done this before and given real insight in what to expect, how to plan my day and even given a vital lesson on navigating the D.C. metro. I was unable to secure any meetings with my own state's legislators but that wasn't a problem at all as I was more than welcome to come with others to their legislative appointments, to be a supporter and to see how these meetings go. It felt amazing to be taken care of by my fellow laboratorians and welcomed with open arms. The number one take away from Labvocate, is that our voice and impact together is multiplied exponentially then when we are on our own. If you would like to know what you can do to help go to www.labvocate.org. On the website you will find updated information on the legislation the laboratory community is supporting, how to reach out to your own legislators, and how you can help make an impact in the labvocate mission.

-Carly Preston, LSCLS Member

LSCLS in Action!

LSCLS President Judy Garic attended 2 high school career fairs in Mandeville and Slidell representing laboratory professionals! She also met with members who were unable to attend the Bi-state meeting to present their awards. Thank Ms. Judy!!!



ULM students and Developing Professional Board Members Jaci and Lake documenting their experiences on Instagram!



LSCLS and Region VII members at Alpha Mu Tau Dinner. Theme was black and gold!



@jacibervin @lakayjadupree

Come follow me for the day and feel free to ask about my time here!



UPCOMING EVENTS

PRISM (virtual)
- January 20-22nd, 2025 -
hosted by ASCLS Diversity Advocacy Council

ELMC2 (virtual)
Friday, January 24 – Saturday, January 25, 2025
Register [HERE](#).

CLEC (virtual option)
March 6-8, 2025 in Atlanta, GA

Bi-State meeting
March 17-19, 2025 in Lafayette, LA

JAM (virtual option)
June 8-12 | Sacramento, CA

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE
LSCLS/ASCLS-MS Bi-State Meeting



March 17 -19, 2025

The Doubletree by Hilton
1521 W Pinhook Rd.
Lafayette, LA 70503





PRISM

Pride · Respect · Inclusion · Support · Momentum

PRISM -The ASCLS Diversity Advocacy Council (DAC) invites you to participate in PRISM: Pride · Respect · Inclusion · Support · Momentum, which debuted in January 2021. As leaders and members, we understand that the most uncomfortable conversations can be the most educational, productive, and inspiring. With this in mind, the DAC organized PRISM, a series of virtual activities, including movie nights, book clubs, and conversations with featured guests. Free to all ASCLS members!



One-of-a-kind all-virtual event that prepares medical laboratory professionals to thrive in management positions. ELMC2 provides convenient professional development designed to empower you to seamlessly transition into leadership. Earn up to 20 hours of P.A.C.E.® credit over 2 days of live virtual sessions that recorded and available for streaming for 30 days after the event.



Impactful annual gathering for faculty, administrators, directors, advisers, and others in medical laboratory education. Content experts will present a wide range of timely topics, providing you with the knowledge and skills to navigate the evolving landscape for the clinical laboratory education community.

THE CAJUN SCIENTISTS'



GUMBO EXPERIMENT

That's
y'all...

See you
soon in
the
BOOT!

