

# Bayou Tech

Louisiana Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
An Affiliate of American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science



Edited By: Evan Ashley & Mallory McCarty

## A Word from the President: Stephanie Blackburn MHS, MLS (ASCP)<sup>cm</sup>

Hello LSCLS members!

Spring is drawing near and that means it is time to start thinking about the upcoming year. We ended 2014 with a successful LSCLS board meeting and I appreciate all of those that were able to take part. We had a few events take place during fall, in addition to the board meeting: Area II held another successful meeting with guest speaker, Mary Mitchell; the LSCLS website has been updated and looks phenomenal, thanks to Evan Ashley and Jessica Lasiter; and 278 emails were sent to our lapsed members encouraging them to renew their ASCLS and LSCLS memberships. I am happy to announce that we were able to retain a large percentage of members in our professional organization.

In light of that, we have still faced the problem with recruiting new members. I previously challenged all of you to recruit ONE new member. Have you accepted the challenge? If not, talk to your coworkers, students, or new graduates. Encourage them to become a part of their professional organization and let them know about the numerous events that will be taking place over the next several months.

As you recruit new members, I urge all of you to spend time exploring the ASCLS website. The website provides a vast array of knowledge for everyone: students, new professionals, and experienced laboratorians. When you go to [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org) you will find a variety of options, depending on your interest.

Recruitment ideas? Need to get an idea as to how to describe an MLS? Check out Promotion of the Profession! ASCLS provides a variety of videos and power point presentations that you will likely find useful.

Interested in patient and lab safety? ASCLS is working diligently to promote patient safety. Take a look at the variety of patient safety tools and resources that is offered.

Are you a student or an educator? Did you know there is a tab on the ASCLS website just for students? This link is a great tool for current and prospective students. You can learn about our profession, find MLS or MLT programs, find out about certification, and discover the many awards and scholarships that are available.

Do you need continuing education? As an ASCLS member, you have a multitude of opportunities to earn your CEUs. If you check out the Continuing Education link, you will find dates for upcoming webinars, webcasts, online education, CACMLE courses, in addition to many other items of interest.

Want to know about upcoming events? You can always check out the website to find dates for upcoming meetings.

The ASCLS website provides an enormous amount of useful information. I encourage everyone to take advantage of what ASCLS has to offer. We play a key role in healthcare. It is time for others to learn about our profession. Medical Laboratory Professional Week is coming in April. This is a great opportunity for every one of us to get out there and spread the word about laboratory professionals.

Don't forget to nominate a LSCLS member for an award this year. We are looking for nominations for LSCLS Member of the Year, LSCLS Educator of the Year, and LSCLS Student of the Year. If you know someone that you think deserves one of these awards, please fill out the nomination form at [www.lscls.org](http://www.lscls.org) and send it in no later than March 15.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming LSCLS/ASCLS-MS Bi-State Annual Meeting in Shreveport, LA on April 13 - 16. Many committee members have worked very hard to make this a phenomenal meeting and we have some fantastic guest speakers that will be there. I look forward to seeing you in Shreveport!

Stephanie Blackburn

LSCLS President



*"... talk to your coworkers, students, or new graduates. Encourage them to become a part of their professional organization..."*

*- Stephanie Blackburn*

## In This Issue

- Word from the President
- Compliance
- Student Forum
- Upcoming Events
- Save the Date

# Compliance

Regulatory compliance is the adherence to standards, regulations, and other requirements.

The laboratory is mandated to follow the (CLIA) Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988. Without following these regulations from CLIA, a laboratory is not allowed to bill for services to Medicare beneficiaries or Medicaid recipients; therefore assuring compliance with all the many standards, regulations, and other requirements is of utmost importance.

My involvement with Compliance started with a CLIA validation survey in 2007, before this date I was not familiar with ALL the cumbersome CLIA regulations. After sitting with the CLIA surveyors for two weeks I had a much better understanding of the numerous regulations. Moving on to 2008 I was offered a job to use my growing knowledge of compliance to aid hospitals in North East Louisiana with understanding and implementation of the many CLIA regulations. In the years since starting my journey through compliance I have built wonderful relationships with lab managers. I am now a part of a highly knowledgeable group of compliance specialist that are involved in laboratories throughout the state of Louisiana.

It is my responsibility to help Medical Directors, laboratory managers and supervisors wade through the bureaucratic laws that we as conscientious techs already perform in our endeavor to take care of the many patients and patient specimens we handle daily.

I personally use my job as a Compliance Specialist to buffer lab management from Local, State and Federal Surveyors and aid the laboratories with interpreting the many standards, regulations and other requirements. I am the fresh set of eyes on the everyday ins and outs of running a lab. I remind you of the Annual, Bi-annual, quarterly, monthly, weekly and daily checks that are required to run a lab.

Michele Werner, MT(ASCP), CLS-G  
Compliance Specialist

# Student Forum Update

Greetings,

It has been an amazing journey thus far, and I am pleased to inform you about what is happening on the national level. Over the past month the National Student Forum had a Yankee candle fundraiser. We exceeded our goal, thanks to the many donations and purchases from all supporters. These funds will be used to supply students the opportunity to attend the Legislative Symposium and the Annual Meeting 2015. Please, I implore all students to please go to the ASCLS website to apply for the Leg Day 2015 Scholarship. The deadline for the scholarship is February 6, 2015 – DON'T DELAY.

We are in the midst of planning our next fundraiser. Every month I have been privileged to work with a prestige group of individuals from other states and the result from the teamwork has been nothing less than phenomenal. I attain a strong hope that Louisiana is well represented and we now become front runners in our professional organization. Overall, the national student forum desires to expose students to the amazing opportunities that are granted from our professional organization. We have more things in the pipeline, so please stay tuned.

Elizabeth Ezeb, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
National Student Forum Chair  
American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science

*Hello everyone my name is James Gardner and I am your ASCLS Region VII Student Representative. The spring and summer are exciting times for our profession as there are plenty of things going on. First, is the Legislative Symposium in March where students and professionals get to meet with their respective State Representatives to discuss various policies that directly affect the lab. Second, is the ASCLS Annual Meeting in late July where students and fellow professionals meet to discuss various issues within our own profession. There are great educational sessions and the clinical lab expo which is an amazing experience for everyone. I highly recommend in going to one of these meetings and getting involved! The best way to get your foot in the door is to get involved at the Bi-State Meeting in Shreveport. I look forward to meeting you all in April.*

*James Gardner  
ASCLS Region VII Student Representative*

# AWARENESS OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

## *What can we do to help spread the word?*

*That is a question that every one of us should ask ourselves. Nationally, regionally and locally (statewide) there is a medical technologist shortage. That's great for recently graduated Med Techs and those on course to graduate soon. There are numerous jobs to choose from and securing employment is not a problem. Once you start working you soon realize that there's not enough of us. So, you begin to wonder if this profession is in such demand and is also one of the top 50 professions since 2011, why the shortage and not saturation? The answer to the question is awareness or the lack thereof.*

*So what can we do to help? Throughout the past few months I have been speaking with educators as well as some professionals trying to determine ways or strategies to accomplish this task. One of the things repeatedly mentioned is that most students in a university setting are not aware that a B.S. in Medical Technology is a viable degree option. So how can we change this? I challenge and propose that as students if you commit to sharing your experience at least once about how you found out about Medical Technology and why you chose to pursue a degree in this discipline awareness will start. Make it an Instagram or Facebook post one day. Let's see if we can get Medical technology to trend.*

*We have to get awareness out about the profession in order to sustain it, improve it and gain respect for it. There is a bright future ahead for Med Tech's.*

*Syrita Steib-Martin, MLS (ASCP)  
LSCLS Student Forum Chair 2014-2015*

# Upcoming Events

## March 11

Deadline for early registration for Spring Meeting.

## March 15

Deadline for LSCLS Awards nominations – We are looking for nominations for LSCLS Member of the Year, LSCLS Educator of the Year, and LSCLS Student of the Year – Nominate a deserving member for one of these awards! Award nomination forms may be found at [www.lscls.org](http://www.lscls.org).

Deadline for LSCLS Scholarship applications – Encourage MLS students to apply for these fantastic scholarships! Scholarship applications may be found at [www.lscls.org](http://www.lscls.org)

## March 16 – 17, 2015

2015 Legislative Symposium in Washington, D.C. – This meeting provides an excellent education about lobbying. Attendees learn how to effectively talk to their congressional representatives and return home with first-hand knowledge of the political system in action. This is your chance as a Medical Laboratory Scientist to stand up for your profession and make a difference. Go to <http://www.ascls.org/ascls-meetings/legislative-symposium> for additional information.

## April 13 – 16, 2015

2015 LSCLS/ASCLS-MS Bi-State Meeting will be held at the Shreveport Convention Center and Hilton Hotel in Shreveport, LA – This is a great opportunity to meet with other lab professionals and earn continuing education when you attend some of the fantastic sessions that have been planned. Go to [www.lscls.org](http://www.lscls.org) for a registration form and preliminary program.

## April 15, 2015

LSCLS Spring Board Meeting will be held at the Shreveport Convention Center during the Bi-State Meeting. All LSCLS members are welcome!

## April 19 – 25, 2015

Medical Laboratory Professional Week – This week provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate our profession, as well as increase the understanding and appreciation for clinical laboratory personnel. Now is the time to start planning activities, games, and food for your lab. Some fun ideas: daily puzzles or Bingo, ice cream sundae bar, and door prizes. For more information, visit <http://www.ascls.org/medical-laboratory-professionals-week>.

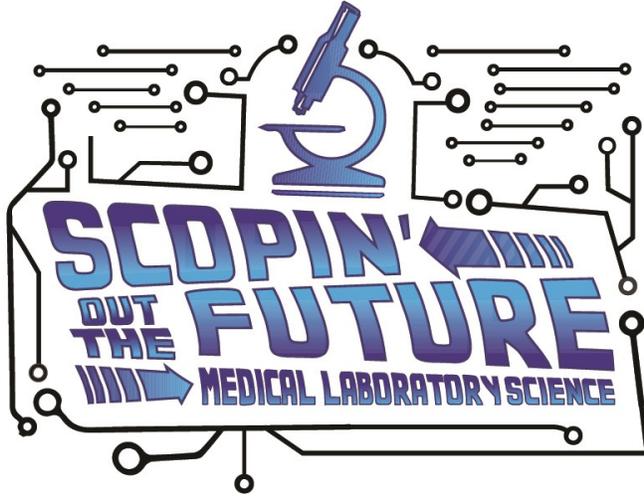
## July 28 – 30, 2015

National ASCLS Clinical Lab Expo in Atlanta, GA

## July 29 – August 1, 2015

National ASCLS Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA – This provides laboratory professionals an opportunity to network with fellow laboratorians and advance your knowledge with ample continuing education opportunities. The Clinical Lab Expo will be there as well, providing the latest in laboratory technology. For more information, visit <http://www.ascls.org/ascls-meetings/annual-meeting-new>.

# SAVE THE DATE



SCAN ME!



Scan me to quickly access all the information about the up and coming meeting.

\*Read with any iPhone, Windows, or Android QR Reader.

[www.lscsls.org](http://www.lscsls.org)

LSCLS/ASCLS-MS Bi-State Meeting

April 13-16, 2015

At the Shreveport Convention Center

Shreveport, Louisiana

## Editor's Note

I just wanted to say thanks to all of those who took time out of their schedules to submit articles and pictures. Help us pass this newsletter along by forwarding it to all of your coworkers or by posting it somewhere in your lab. This is just a reminder that we are now accepting ads to go into the newsletter. If anyone has any article that they would like to be put in the next edition of the Bayou Tech send the article to either [lasiter@ulm.edu](mailto:lasiter@ulm.edu) or [evan.c.ashley@gmail.com](mailto:evan.c.ashley@gmail.com). Also any suggestions of things you would like seen in the newsletter can also be sent to the previous email addresses.

Thanks,

Evan Ashley, MLS (ASCP)<sup>cm</sup>