

SPRING 2023

BAYOU TECH NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Chair:
CHRISTEN DIEL, MS-CLS, MLS (ASCP)

Contact Info:
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WELCOME BACK!

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.



***One Voice,
One Vision***



ASCLS Mission Statement

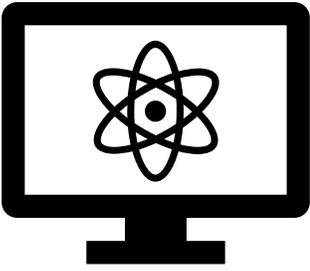
The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science is the preeminent organization for clinical laboratory science practitioners. ASCLS provides dynamic leadership and vigorously promotes all aspects of clinical laboratory science practice, education and management to ensure excellent, accessible cost-effective laboratory services for the consumers of health care.

The mission of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) is to promote the profession of medical laboratory science and provide beneficial services to those who practice it.

LSCLS Mission Statement

The Louisiana Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (LSCLS) is a constituent society of ASCLS.

To enable its members to provide quality services for all consumers, our society is committed to the continuous quest for excellence in all its activities.



LABORATORY NEWS:



Theranos – Elizabeth Holmes Sentencing

Author: Christen
Diel, MS-CLS, MLS,
(ASCP)cm

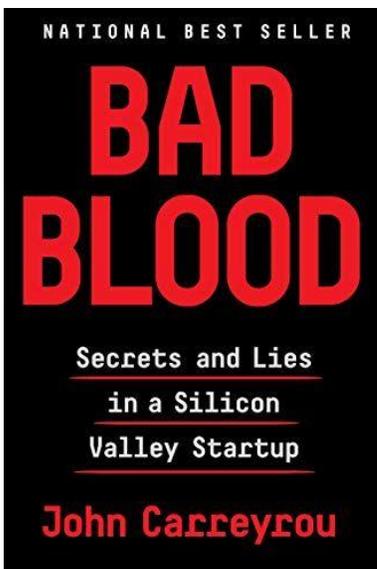
Trying to revolutionize the laboratory industry, the founder and CEO of a Silicon Valley biotech company Theranos' Elizabeth Holmes raised nearly 1 billion dollars in investments to create a point-of-care type device that required only finger prick's volume of blood to run hundreds of chemical and immuno-assays. Despite boastful claims of superiority and partnerships with big name pharmaceutical companies, the technology was never successful at producing precise or reliable results that could adequately pass quality assurance or run patient testing. However, the device was used for patient testing with erroneous results reported. Several employees from within the lab and administration noticed the inconsistencies and began whistleblowing as Holmes refused to pull her device from Walgreen's Safeway stores.

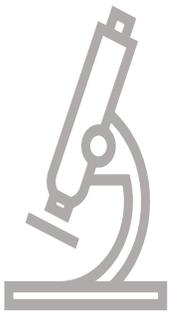
The results of this whistleblowing lead to an investigation led by Wall Street journalist John Carreyrou that has since become a best-selling expose, "Bad Blood". It was discovered that the company was evading many federal regulations by claiming the technology was considered a laboratory developed test (LDT) and data picking much of the quality control and validation documents. Federal lead investigations lead to the case being brought to federal and district courts.

In the case of US vs Holmes, Elizabeth was indicted in 2018 and ultimately charged in 2022 with one count of conspiracy and three counts of wire fraud. As of November 2022, the sentencing was concluded, and Holmes received 135 months in a minimum-security federal prison camp with an additional three years of supervised release.

There has never been such a precedent of laboratory medicine exposure in pop-culture and the courts. As laboratory professionals it is crucial that we guide the narrative on what is acceptable in our field regarding patient safety. Several discussions have been held regarding the sentencing of Elizabeth Holmes: Was it just? Were the charges adequate for the crimes committed? It is within our scope and duty to advocate for the patients we serve. What is your take on the Theranos case? Do you think this case has the potential to negatively affect the public's perception of lab medicine or impact federal regulations of LDTs? Let us know by sending an email to: lsclsorg@gmail.com

Your response might be featured in the next Bayou Tech!





UPCOMING EVENTS

April 23-29, 2023

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week originated in 1975 and provides the profession with a unique opportunity to increase public understanding of and appreciation for clinical laboratory



April 23-29, 2023

This is a virtual race that can be completed during MLPW, whenever and however is most convenient for you! All funds raised will go to travel grants helping ASCLS members to attend the ASCLS Annual Meeting and the Legislative Symposium.

Click [HERE](#) for more information



**JAM: Joint Annual Meeting:
June 26-30th, 2023**

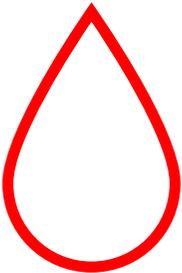
Where: Providence, Rhode Island

Click [HERE](#) for more information

ASCLS Webinar - Patient Blood Management: The Why, or Better Yet, Why Not?

When: Mar 23, 2023 from 12:00 to 13:00 (CT)

[LINK](#)



The ASCLS Race to JAM

Presented by the Developing
Professionals Forum Vice Chair,
Katelyn Farrar

The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Developing Professionals Forum (ASCLS DPF) would like to invite you and your students to participate in this year's "The ASCLS Race to JAM". This is a national competition that will be conducted over Zoom. Teams of 4-5 players will compete in a bracket style trivia game where questions will be asked in all subject areas of Medical Laboratory Science. The Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) is a national conference where members of ASCLS and other laboratory organizations come together for more than 60 educational sessions, professional networking, and poster presentations. This event is a great opportunity for your students to network with current laboratory professionals and develop their leadership skills! This year JAM will be held June 26-30, 2023 in Providence, Rhode Island.

The Developing Professionals Forum (DPF) shall strive to educate students of clinical laboratory science in the concept of professionalism as expressed by the organization in its philosophies, policies and procedures; and to maintain a structure through which student members can communicate their needs, concerns and opinions to the local, state, regional and national governing bodies of the Society.

Our goal is to have a general overview of the amount of interested participants, in which we are hoping you could help us achieve this goal by passing the information on to your students and/or student organizations.

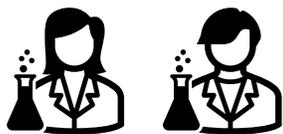
We ask that any interested teams complete the "Form of Intent" using the following google form link by Friday, February 24th, 2023 at 11:59pm EST. Thank you for your cooperation.

Form of Intent Link: Click [HERE](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

Email: kfarrar@oakland.edu

Diversity in Laboratory Medicine



Recent years have brought about a cultural shift to focus on awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) of all people, religions, backgrounds, sexual orientations, disabilities, etc. ASCLS has recognized that DEI plays an important role in how we treat our patients and peers.

The Diversity Advocacy Council (DAC) was created as an ASCLS committee to “advocate for the advancement of the ASCLS definition of diversity. To promote inclusivity, communication, and cooperation among Medical Laboratory Professionals, and to promote and encourage a social and fraternal atmosphere for members.” – ASCLS DAC Mission

If you are interested in volunteering or getting involved with DAC please visit following link:
<https://connect.ascls.org/dac/home>



ASCLS - OFF the Bench Podcast!



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.
Find @: <https://ascls.org/offthebench/>



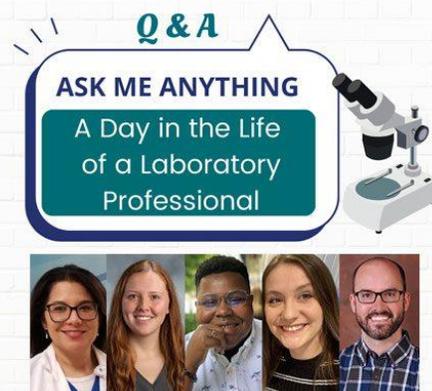
ASCLS Today is the membership newsletter of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science.

Find the most current issue [HERE](#)



Medical Laboratory Scientist by day, artist by night, Sophia Chandrasekar is the Creator of Warbler Works Studio, a Freelance Illustrator and ASCP certified Medical Laboratory Scientist. She is also the illustrator of Lab Colors and Lab Colors 2, an adult coloring book with laboratory themed coloring pages that helped raise funds for the North Carolina Society of Clinical Laboratory Science. She has expanded her artistry to include laboratory themed comics, Christmas sweaters, and stationary items that are perfect for Laboratory Professionals week!

Shop her Etsy Store [HERE](#)



ASCLS Ask Me Anything Series

Watch livestream recordings of previous Ask Me Anything Sessions. Get advice on career options, earning the DCLS, preparing for certifications and much more!

Watch [HERE!](#)

**MEDICAL LABORATORY
PROFESSIONALS
SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS**



**L S C L S & A S C L S - M S
2023 BI-STATE MEETING**

**MARCH 30 - APRIL 1
MONROE, LA**

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 29th

Mississippi and Louisiana Board Meetings: 5:00-7:00pm

Thursday, March 30th

MLT and MLS Student Bowl: 8:00am-until late afternoon (box lunches)

Career Fair: 2:30pm-5:00pm

*Flying Heart Brewery Social: 6:00pm-9:00pm** (meal on your own)*

*Josh Love Band at the Flying Heart Brewery Social***

Friday, March 31st

MLT and MLS Student Bowl: 8:00am-10:00am

Educational Sessions (6.0 CEs): 9:00am-5:15pm

Dedicated Exhibits: 2:30pm-5:00pm

Lisa Spann at ULM Bayou Pointe Social: 6:00pm-10:00pm (ticket required)

Saturday, April 1st

Educational Sessions (6.0 CEs): 8:00am-6:15pm

Dedicated Exhibits: 9:30pm-11:30am

Awards Luncheon: 11:30am-1:30pm (full day registration required)

PROMOTIONS

Scholarship Opportunities for Students:

JOY HOLM & BETTY LYNNE THERIOT

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Application Deadline: March 15th

CLICK THE LINK TO DOWNLOAD

https://www.lscls.org/files/ugd/ae88f1_20e2c272165b409c8aca0d5edf90025a.pdf



The LSCLS & ASCLS- MS 2023 Bi-State Meeting is excited to have LifeShare Blood Center host a blood donation drive on Friday, March 31st from 2:30PM until 5:30PM. Sign up today to help save a life!

Links for Registration:

Click on link below for applications.

Early Bird Registration deadline

March 10, 2023.

REGISTER FOR BISTATE MEETING HERE!

[2023 LSCLS ASCLS MS Career Fair Registration Form](#)

[2023 Bistate Registration Rates](#)

[2023 Sponsor Exhibitor Form](#)

[Hotel Reservation Information](#)

Nominations!!!

Vacancy for LSCLS Area V Rep covering the following parishes:

Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Vermillion

Contact [Michele Werner](#) or [Jennifer Bushnell](#)

Continuing Education Scholarship Opportunity for all LSCLS Members:

ANNA HARNING FUND

FOR

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Deadline to Apply: March 15th

CLICK THE LINK TO DOWNLOAD

https://www.lscls.org/files/ugd/ae88f1_8ae0cc046a524276a59f84d9154c7cd5.pdf

ASCENDING PROFESSIONALISM

Mikayla Puckett
Ascending Professional Chair, LSCLS

Building the Foundation

Congratulations! You are now an ascending professional! What's next? The first five years of your professional career are a time to lay a foundation and start exploring future plans or goals and how to accomplish them. Having been an MLS for almost three years, I have already had an abundance of opportunity within this field. I attribute the majority of these experiences to my involvement in ASCLS and LSCLS. In this article, I hope to share some knowledge I have been able to pick up along the way and encourage you to reach higher.

One of the most appealing aspects of being a medical laboratory scientist is the variety of career paths available. Not only can you become a bench tech, working in a hospital or clinic setting, but you have opportunities for advancement. This could mean becoming a supervisor, manager, director, or even obtaining a specialty in an area you are passionate about. You can become a traveler and quite literally be paid to see the world. You can obtain a masters or doctorate within the profession. You can become an educator and help write a textbook. You can even go into sales, customer support, field service, etc. The list could go on and on. Every one of these opportunities are available to you. You just have to seek them out and find what aligns with your passions.

GETTING READY FOR YOUR NEXT STEP

Where to start? Cover letter, resume, and experience. All three are important individually and together can be pivotal in the decision making process between candidates competing for a certain position. A cover letter should be a short introduction of you as a person and your intentions in applying for a position within a company. A resume is generally an abbreviated version of your professional life and work history.

As an ascending professional, experience may be limited. However, I would encourage you to list jobs held prior to entering the laboratory field and any awards or titles held within your professional society to boost appearance in the eyes of HR representatives. Though job availability is generally not an issue at this time, presenting these three components in a strong way will give you negotiating power and possibly higher wages and access to higher positions.

NETWORKING

Networking can be one of the greatest assets when trying to reach a goal or gather opportunity. This field is hungry for young professionals and there is no better time to market yourself. Knowing key people will help build references and access career opportunities. The LSCLS annual meeting and the ASCLS national meeting are my top suggestions for networking resources. Professionals from all over the state/country gather together to discuss current issues, new findings, and instill a feeling of importance within your position. I have met some of the most influential people in laboratory medicine at these meetings.

The decisions you make and the people you meet within your ascending professional years, can completely change the trajectory of your career. These years are important, but so exciting!

I wish you the best of luck!

Mikayla Puckett
Ascending Professional
Chair
LSCLS



A Message from the LSCLS President, Melonie Falcon

Dear LSCLS Members,

First of all, I would like to thank our LSCLS/MS-ASCLS Bistate Meeting Committee as they have been very busy planning our upcoming event in Monroe, LA. The dates are March 30-April 1, 2023. Our theme this year is Medical Laboratory Professionals Soaring to New Heights. The Committee changed the format of the meeting this year as it has become more and more difficult for facilities to allow our members to attend the meeting for the entire work week. This year we will focus more on weekend opportunities, and we hope that you will be able to find some time to attend. We will be offering numerous exceptional educational opportunities, two great social events, an awards luncheon and presentation, an auction to support the Food Bank of NELA, a great group of exhibitors, several that will be bringing their large "lab on wheels", not to mention amazing networking opportunities with colleagues!! Our profession relies on our membership and collaboration across the state and on a national level. This meeting is a great way to explore more about what LSCLS/ASCLS does to help the future of our profession!!

We look forward to seeing many smiling faces at the meeting. We hope to get to speak to each of you at some point during the time we will spend together. We are thankful for such committed and focused laboratory professionals in our state!!

Hope to see you soon,

Melonie D. Falcon

President, LSCLS