

Montana Laboratory News

Summer 2022

Editor Cara Bushmaker



ASCLS
The American Society for
Clinical Laboratory Science
MONTANA

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Kelly Amidei

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Where has the year gone?

It was just one month ago that your Montana delegation headed off to represent you at the national meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This is always an exciting time to reengage and recommit to our professional organization, ASCLS. A lot has happened since a year ago when we met in Louisville. We've had a good year beginning with a well-attended Orientation to kick off the year. In September, we were able to meet in person in Bozeman for our Fall Board meeting. It was so nice to finally gather in the same room and meet face-to-face. The pandemic has shown us that we can function in a virtual world, but it can't replace getting together in person.

Having that physical presence is so important to conducting business, discussing difficult topics, and just feeling a sense of belonging. Travel can be challenging but in the end it's worth every bit of the effort required. We worked on several projects throughout the year, including the Bylaws/SOP amendments and revision and the Position Description updates. The new Bylaws/SOP document was approved and adopted at the Annual Business meeting in Great Falls and is now posted on the ASCLS-Montana website. Speaking of the website, please take some time to check out the new look. Anna Adams, webmaster, has put a lot of work into refreshing an already award-winning website and I anticipate more awards in the future. The Spring Meeting in Great Falls in May was so wonderful! Resilience-Emerge Stronger! What a perfect theme for the last 2 years. We were able to emerge into the light in Great Falls and get back to that important personal connection that is such a big part of this organization. The networking opportunities at in-person conferences are so important; that's what keeps us engaged, energized, and emotionally equipped to return to the lab with a positive attitude. Reconnecting with old friends and meeting new members of the ASCLS family is what it's all about. I might be retired but only from the work force, not my profession and my professional colleagues.

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Finally, I just want to thank each one of you for your continued membership and support of our premier Professional organization, ASCLS! Membership in our professional organization is that final step that shows we are professionals. Our membership dollars enable ASCLS to advocate on our behalf to ensure that we have a VOICE in what happens in our profession. These lyrics from Arlo Guthrie's 'Alice's Restaurant' say it all:

One person, just one person does it they may think he's really sick and
They won't take him. And if two people, two people do it, in harmony,
They may think they're both (crazy) and they won't take either of them.
And three people do it, three, can you imagine, three people walking in
Singin a bar of Alice's Restaurant and walking out. They may think it's an
Organization. And can you, can you imagine fifty people a day, I said
Fifty people a day walking in singin a bar of Alice's Restaurant and
Walking out. And friends they may think it's a movement.

Thank you, Montana, for allowing me to serve as your President this year, it's truly been an honor!

Holly Weinberg



Licensure vs. Certification: What Would we Lose?

Recently the Montana state licensing board sent out a survey regarding the licensing process in the state of Montana. This not only affects Clinical Laboratory Science but it affects all licensed healthcare professions. Below I've outlined the scope of ASCP certification and the scope for the Montana licensing board. As highlighted in yellow the two roles are vastly different.

ASCP focuses on your qualifications and competence. State licensing is a safety measure ensuring there are no complaints against you, or misconduct filed. A national certification board will never be monitoring the safety of our profession to that level. The role of the state is to maintain the safety and care of our patients and profession in our healthcare facilities.

Please take this information and share with other licensed professionals. Write to the board of licensing to question the prospected role changes are not just a financial decision.

ASCP Certification

Certification and Credential Maintenance Certification is the process by which a non-governmental agency or association grants recognition of competence to an individual who has met certain predetermined qualifications, as specified by the agency or association. The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) provides a mechanism for these individuals to be recognized as having the necessary competence to perform the medical laboratory roles they seek. This mechanism is called certification. ASCP BOC certification is time-limited for three years. To remain valid, certification must be maintained by completing the Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) as described on page 36.

MONTANA BUSINESS STANDARDS DIVISION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- [Professional Licensing Bureau](#)

Goal #1: Provide efficient and effective administrative and professional services to assist citizen boards in their duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Objectives:

1. Assist boards and programs in establishing appropriate and reasonable requirements and qualifications for licensure and renewal based on industry standards.
2. Ensure complaints from the public and other jurisdictions regarding practice issues and misconduct are processed.
3. Enforce board standards and sanctions to promote safe and competent practice.
4. Ensure continued competency of licensees through maintenance of certifications and continuing education requirements and audits.

Goal #2: Provide friendly, prompt, efficient, and effective services to our customers. and reliable processes.

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Objectives:

5. Provide accurate and timely information regarding qualifications and requirements to the public, licensees, business owners, and industry leaders and partners.
6. Provide continuous communication to customers regarding program information and updates via our website and online services.

Goal #3: License and renew individuals and businesses through proficient, effective, and reliable processes.

Objectives:

7. Review and approve individual and business application requirements and qualifications for licensure and renewal equitably.
8. Solicit opportunity for the public, licensees, industry leaders, and partners to provide feedback for improvement regarding standards and processes.
9. Promote online application and renewal processes to achieve efficiencies and enhanced delivery of services.

Information or concerns may be sent to the following:

Via email at DLIBSDWEBHELP@MT.GOV or by phone (406) 841-2300.



The Region VIII Leadership Academy is a unique opportunity to educate yourself about management topics, leadership skills and all things ASCLS. We are looking for motivated candidates to enroll now!

Do you have a desire to further develop your leadership skills?

Has your leadership potential been recognized by constituent society officers, board members or others in leadership roles?

Have you demonstrated leadership potential by participating in leadership activities within constituent society organizations?

If you answered YES to any of these questions and you are currently a member of ASCLS, we want YOU!

[CLICK HERE](#)

SPRING MEETING RECAP



Member of the Year
President Holly Weinberg



President's Gavel Hand-off
Saide Arnold-Holly Weinberg



Student Poster of the Year:
Brian Teats, Bozeman Health Deaconess
Psoriasis: Pathogenesis, Treatment, and Emerging
Laboratory Testing
Presented by: Carli Dyba and Jennifer Wolcott



Key to the Future
Anna Adams
Presented by Holly Weinberg

2022 Awards

The following national awards were presented at the ASCLS Awards Ceremony being held June 2022 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

ASCLS Constituent Member of the Year Recognition:

Holly Weinberg

Member of the Year:

Holly Weinberg

Student Member of the Year:

Heather Wilson, St James

This award was sponsored by Xtant Medical

Student Poster of the Year:

Brian Teats, Bozeman Health Deaconess

Psoriasis: Pathogenesis, Treatment, and Emerging Laboratory Testing

(This award was sponsored by Western Microscopes)

Key to the Future:

Anna Adams

National Omicron Sigma Awards:

Regional Omicron Sigma Awards:

Holly Weinberg, Superior

Sadie Arnold, Billings

Cara Bushmaker, Hamilton

Jennifer Wolcott, Billings

Terah Rash, Helena

Emily Haight, Billings

State Omicron Sigma Awards:

Cara Bushmaker, Hamilton (not pictured)

Abbey Wichman, Lewistown

Tori Rensink, Belgrade

Kay Rasmussen, Bozeman

Anna Adams, Missoula

Jennifer Wolcott, Billings

Sherri Nichols, Wise River

Zanna Hartrich, Lewistown

Anne Tate, Bigfork

Maria Rodriguez, Bozeman

Tiffany Ashworth, Helena

Susie Zanto, Helena

Longevity Awards:

45 year members: Bill Schulz, Helena
John Daehn, Helena

35 year member: Sonja Ray, Cut Bank

15 year members: Tori Rensink, Belgrade
Erika Jaegers, Trout Creek
Brenden Collins, Billings

5 year members: David Korkowski, Big Sandy
Jennifer Wolcott, Billings
Kelly Amidei, Billings
Debbie Pratt, Lewistown
Zanna Hartrich, Lewistown
Alison Mizner, Bozeman
Jennifer Yates, Chester

AMTF Scholarships - the Bunny Rodak went to Brittany Rauscher!

PAC Updates!

ASCLS MT
PAC Chair Update
Anna Adams,
MPH, MLS (ASCP)CM,
REHS

Spring 2022 Conference Recap

We held a small PAC promotion at the conference and raised ~\$220 dollars. It is unfortunate that we were unable to provide PINS, I will be sure to inquire of their status much further in advance for next year's conference.

Thank you to those of you whom have contributed to the PAC either online or at the conference!

Debbie Shell, Region VIII Gov Affairs Chair, ASCLS-Idaho, presented an excellent summary on what our PAC is, how it is supported, and who represents us: Patrick Cooney with the Federal Group.

LABVOCATE INFORMATION



The current call for action is to call on your senator to pass the "Protecting Medicare and American Farmers from Sequester Cuts Act" You can represent your fellow laboratorian by voicing your concern if this act were to not pass the Senate. Become a Labvocate, in just a few minutes or less! Visit: <https://ascls.org/labvocate/>



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Legislature Lens:

The VALID Act: Senate Action Brings FDA Regulation of LDTs Closer to Fruition
Recently: May 17, 2022

American Society for Microbiology Submits Concerns on VALID Act, read more and support their concerns through their advocacy link, similar to ASCLS's labvocate link.

<https://asm.org/Articles/Policy/2022/May-2022/VALID-Act>



ISSUE #3

June 2022



MONTANA
COMMUNICABLE
DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY

Keep up to date on the latest COVID-19 case counts, hospitalizations, and active cases by county. The state laboratory has expanded hours 7 days a week.

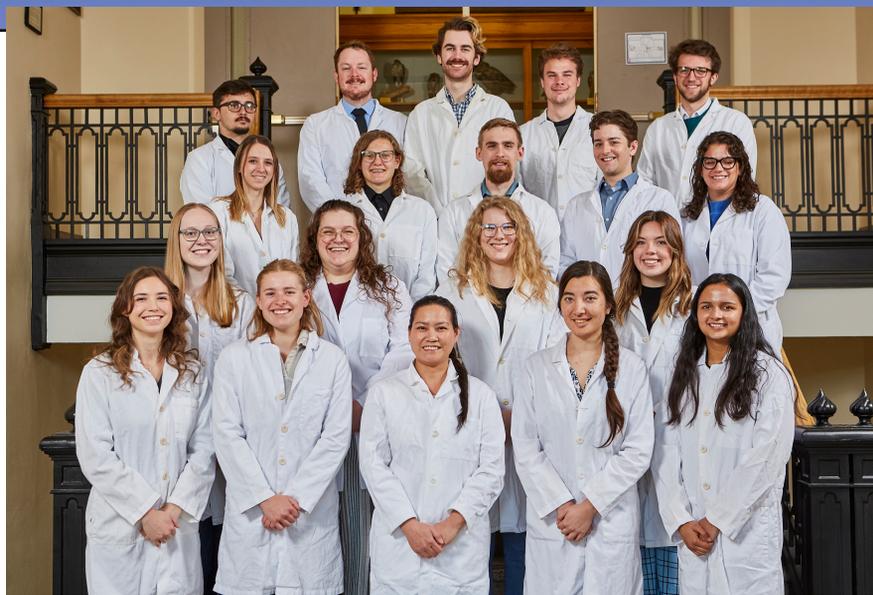
Watch for updates via email!

[**Montana Response-COVID-19**](#)

CONGRATULATIONS! MONTANA MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE CLASS OF 2021-2022



WELCOME MONTANA MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE CLASS OF 2022-2023



Stay in touch virtually!

As members of ASCLS one of your most valuable resources is the [ASCLS Connect Community](#)! Each year you can customize your member community to receive email updates regarding our state society news/updates, any laboratory specialty of interest, and hot topics in the laboratory world. Stay connected to our membership across the US and across our big sky state. The most resources are at our fingertips via the [Connect Community](#), download the app today.

ASCLS Connect Community and Mobile App

Connect through the Online Community at connect.ascls.org

Download a New App to Access the Connect Community on Your Mobile Device

Convenient. The app keeps you logged in, making the entire Connect Community (and all its functions) just an icon away.

Accessible. Look up other members in the directory, send and respond to messages, and monitor community discussions in real time.

Fun!



MemberCentric
Results Direct
Social

To download the app:

1. Go to the [Google Play store](#) or the [Apple App Store](#) and download the MemberCentric app.
2. Search for ASCLS when prompted to "Find your organization."

INSTALL

3. Log in using your credentials for your ASCLS member account.

Word Search

U L I S Y J A Z E R Z O Z C E
V M S L P M U X D G H D S O C
I M W L U Q E I K U H L F N N
I X I I K Q R D E F C E Q F A
B T K X E E E Y A S H A N E N
J U R U C Z G C A C A D A R R
L S T T A C V A I S A E J E E
S E O T P N U C B O A R D N V
G R O J E D X O U F V S M C O
N R W J X K E V N C S H L E G
N O I T A C U D E D W I K M X
P J U D I C I A L I F P J V M
P R O F E S S I O N A L G Y V
P I H S R E B M E M W V D K X
Z Q U E C N E I L I S E R E I

Academy

Advocacy

ASCLS

Board

Butte

Conference

Director

Education

Governance

IMSS

Judicial

Leadership

Membership

MMLS

PACE

Professional

Resilience

Voice

ASCLS UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. IMSS-Intermountain States Seminar 2022

October 6-8

Jackson, WY, United States

2. 2022 Legislative Symposium

September 26-27

Hilton Alexandria Old Town

Alexandria, VA

ASCLS-MT is on social media...be sure to check us out!



Follow us to stay up on the latest news affecting our profession, conference updates, technology, government affairs and society updates.

If you haven't already, follow us, like us and show us some love! You can also stay connected with us and other laboratorians with:

#WeSaveLivesEveryday #IAmASCLS #UnitedAgainstCOVID19 #ASCLSMT #ASCLS #Lab4Life #EveryTestIsOurPatient
#IMSS #AintItGreatInRegionEight

