

FROM ASCLS-MT TO YOU

*Happy Holidays!*



*Written by Cara Bushmaker*

*We hope your holidays are filled with laughter, love, and peace!*

I want to share with you what typically happens during the holidays for ASCLS-MT. It's a time where things slow down a bit and we spend more time with family and loved ones. Our Fall board meeting concludes normal business until after the New Year. Our Spring meeting planning committee signs the contract with the hotel, outlines the planning group, and starts to reach out to potential speakers, vendors, and sponsors. We do a little bit of remote work until we start to see each other regularly for meetings in January. Never totally resting but allowing for some work life balance. Wishing you all a balanced and lovely holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in Billings, MT for our 2024 Annual Meeting! The Fall is also busy with Region VIII Leadership Academy. We kicked off the 10th year in Hot Springs, Idaho. This was a great time spent with faculty and our new interns. This unique opportunity is a chance to have fun and bond in a way that doesn't happen in large organizations. Faculty shares their experiences and strengths. Every new intern shares a new experience for faculty to take charge and pass on. We grow and learn new things each year. We build a family from friends and strong collaboration for the years to come. This year we learned many new international ideas and ways to integrate new members. Artificial intelligence entertained us one night as we spoke of the pros and cons. From that discussion we will now share our Leadership Academy poem about ASCLS. It really hits home and is a thought to share over the holiday season.



# ASCLS

by ChatGPT

In labs of science, bright and keen,  
Where knowledge blooms, where minds  
convene,  
ASCLS, an organization's name,  
In this poem, we'll sing your fame.

With beakers, microscopes, and slides,  
You journey where discovery resides,  
A beacon in the world of healthcare,  
ASCLS, we declare, you truly care.

From the hematology to serology,  
You bring forth knowledge, pure and free,  
With dedication, you do strive,  
To improve lives and make us thrive.

In every test tube and PCR,  
You show us all how great you are,  
With passion and precision true,  
ASCLS, we honor you.

A symphony of lab coats, so white,  
Guided by your shining light,  
Together, you stand strong and tall,  
Answering science's noble call.

With ethics, honor, and integrity,  
ASCLS, you set the decree,  
To serve with hearts both kind and wise,  
In laboratories where answers arise.

In every sample that you explore,  
In every diagnosis, you help restore,  
The health of countless lives each day,  
ASCLS, we salute your way.

So here's to ASCLS, a radiant star,  
Guiding us through science, near and far,  
In the realm of laboratories, you shine bright,  
A beacon of knowledge, pure and right.

In the world of science, you take your place,  
With grace, you lead us in the chase,  
To understand, to heal, to mend,  
ASCLS, you're a true lab's friend.



## Year in Review

### *January 2023*

13 board members met virtually for the Winter board meeting. The news from the national mid-year House of Delegates were discussed along with Legislative updates and Spring meeting updates.

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### *April 2023*

The Spring board meeting kicked off the annual meeting in Butte, MT. The board spends lots of time preparing a budget and readying reports to the society on the year's business.

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### *April 2023*

The state meeting had a fantastic slate of CEs that were also available as recordings for anyone unable to attend. The historic Butte underground made for a unique experience around uptown Butte via the classic trolley car.

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### *November 2023*

Fall board meeting held in Anaconda, MT. Board reviewed JAM, Spring meeting and the planning for next year's meeting in Billings, MT.

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### *November 2023*

ASCLS-MT delegates attended Legislative Symposium both online and in person to connect with our representatives regarding laboratory needs in Montana.

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## December Greetings to you, Montana ASCLS Members!

-Jennifer Wolcott ASCLS-MT President

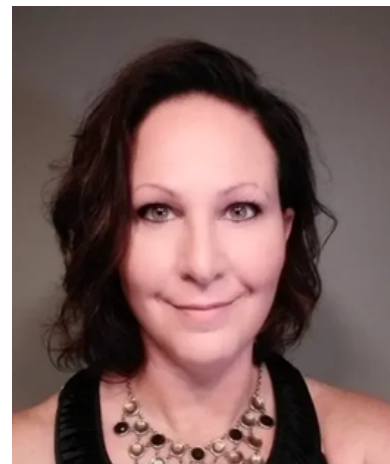
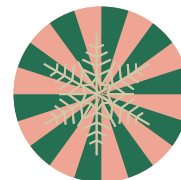
“I am grateful for what I am and what I have. My Thanksgiving is perpetual.”

-Henry David Thoreau

It is a little hard to imagine that it is already December; It seems like summer fun was just a moment away! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and fall and are embracing those memories as we prepare to embark upon the long winter that Montana usually has in store for us. The holiday season is just around the corner as well. Henry David Thoreau said, “I am grateful for what I am and what I have. My Thanksgiving is perpetual.” What a nice reminder to find thankfulness and purpose in each day!

Now, for some ASCLS updates. We are in the middle of some important work. Several of our Board members and ASCLS members were able to attend the recent Legislative symposium. It was held in Alexandria, Virginia and on Capitol Hill October 23 and 24th. Representing Montana in-person at the event were Grei Sebastian (Board of Directors) and Ethan Mercer (ASCLS-MT member). In addition, myself and Anne Tate were able to attend the symposium virtually. During these two days, we attended seminars and got updates on current Legislation that may affect the laboratory industry. In addition, they helped educate us on advocating for the Laboratory. How do you approach your state representatives? How do you make an impact on them in the short window of time you have with them? We were very pleased that Grei and Ethan were able to personally meet Senator Jon Tester, and discuss Montana laboratory issues with him.

WARM GREETINGS



# In other news,

Our Board is in the process of working on our lapsed member campaign. Have you forgotten to renew your ASCLS membership? If so, it is not too late! Just go to [ASCLS.org](https://www.ascls.org) and renew now! Also, we would sure appreciate it if you spread the word in your own laboratories about ASCLS! Let's recruit some new members to our Montana society. ASCLS is the ONLY professional organization dedicated solely to the Medical Laboratory Science profession. We pride ourselves on being a grassroots organization that serves to provide a voice and be of service to our local and regional members.

We have already begun work on planning our 2024 spring meeting. The meeting next year will be held in Billings, MT on April 11-13th. Mark your calendars now for this great event! We have a planning committee in place and are working on coming up with a theme for the meeting and we are beginning the process of booking a full slate of talented speakers. The meeting will be at the Big Horn Resort again this year, as they were such wonderful hosts to us in 2019. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

Jennifer Wolcott  
ASCLS-MT President

## UPCOMING ASCLS EVENTS

01

### 2024 EMERGING LABORATORY MANAGERS COLLABORATIVE CONFERENCE.

Being held virtually only this year on January 19-20th. Recent ASCP vacancy surveys showed that nearly 1/3 of managers in the core lab planned to retire in the next five years. For some areas like hematology and microbiology, that percentage is higher. As an entire generation of laboratory professionals leave the workforce, younger, less experienced laboratory professionals are being pressed into service in management positions they didn't train for. A need exists to prepare these professionals to take on new roles. Check it out at the link here: <https://www.elmc2.org>. Scholarships are available!

02

### 2024 CLINICAL LABORATORY EDUCATORS CONFERENCE (CLEC)

Are you an educator? This is the conference for you! It is being held in sunny Las Vegas, NV this year on February 22-24th.

03

### 2024 ASCLS-MT SPRING MEETING

April 11-13th in Billings, MT. Plan on attending and get all your annual CE's in one fell swoop while getting to network with colleagues from around the state as well as exhibitors.

**This newsletter is a great opportunity to keep in touch with the organization beat throughout the year!**

It's crucial as members to understand where all of your ASCLS-MT resources are and how to find them.

Our website is #1. Our current board, newsletters, blog and volunteer forms are all located here. Interested in a board position? Check it out. Wondering who the best person on the board is to ask a budget question, look up our leader page. Need to renew your membership, you'll find a link to the national website. It's all at your fingertips.

Connect Community is our resource for membership updates and calls for action. Everyone can set this up to push to your personal email, work email, or to just get updates when you log in.

National website is also a great resource for information about our profession. You can find our bylaws and see what we're following at the state level. You can write articles for ASCLS Today or sit as an observer on a committee you'd like to learn more about. There are many possibilities.



# ASCLS-MT

## 2023-2024 Strategic Plan



### **ASCLS Mission:**

The mission of ASCLS is to make a positive impact in health care through leadership that will assure excellence in the practice of laboratory medicine.

### **ASCLS Believes:**

- Quality laboratory service is essential to quality health care.
- Everyone deserves access to safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient-centered healthcare, and
- Advancing the laboratory profession advances health care.

### **ASCLS Core Values:**

1. Defining the characteristics of competent personnel within the profession and providing professional development opportunities so that practitioners can maintain competency are essential roles of a professional association.
2. Enabling laboratory professionals to function at their highest level of competence will contribute to cost effective health care.
3. Promoting diversity supports the delivery of quality laboratory service.
4. Taking a leadership role in standard and policy setting is a core professional responsibility.
5. Advocating for quality within the laboratory is essential to the assurance of quality health care delivery.

**ASCLS is an inclusive, culturally relevant community of people acknowledging their differences and unique characteristics; it is an organization where all persons can engage and participate in a meaningful way empowering everyone to grow and learn.**



## 2023 Silent Charity Auction Highlights!

Copper King Motel- Butte, MT  
Anna Adams-Silent Auction Coordinator



1st Place (2) Years in a Row!

Region VIII represented itself well at the recent Joint Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island with Montana earning the Promotion of the Profession Award two years in succession! This year's annual silent charity auction- benefitting Shodair Children's Hospital, a Children's Miracle Network Hospital, brought in \$1640- surpassing the previous year!

I am looking forward to coordinating next year's auction and bringing home another win! Increasing the amount of funds raised year to year showcases our commitment to supporting the life-saving work of Shodair Children's Hospital!

Our talented members and their families whom have contributed to the recent and previous auctions- certainly allow our auctions to be highly successful- thank you kindly!

Networking with businesses and community partners and acquiring donations to this cause is a sincere honor and I'm grateful for the opportunity! I look forward to serving ASCLS-MT and Shodair in this capacity for many years to come!

See our generous sponsors from our 2023 auction in the column to the right!

If interested in donating to the 2024 ASCLS-MT Silent Charity Auction- please email [annaadams0617@gmail.com](mailto:annaadams0617@gmail.com).

## Sponsorship Spotlight!

Showdown Ski Area- Sustaining Donor! Ask them about their Learn to Ski Program! They've donated this package two years in a row- a \$800 combined value! Thank you for your generous support!

Thank you to our 2023 Sponsors and Donors!

- Scheels Missoula
- Butte Brewing Company
- MacKenzie River Pizza Company
- JPalin Photography
- Ginger Johnson
- Copper King Hotel
- Shepherd's Candy
- Rib and Chop House
- Zip Beverage
- Montana Medical Laboratory Science Faculty
- Members:

Michele Adams  
Jerry Krantz  
DavidKorkowski  
Donna Rutiger  
Tori Rensink  
Cara Bushmaker  
Holly Weinberg (Roger)  
Sadie Arnold  
Abbey Wichman