



Summer/Fall Edition

As I start my term I would like to thank you all for your confidence in me and my appointment to the position of President. We have a busy year ahead of us. The first meeting will be the fall board meeting at UAA September 17th 9:00 am. After the board meeting, from 1-3 pm, we will have our first conference planning meeting. Spots for next year's conference are going quick and it looks like the Anchorage Sheraton will be the site of next year's conference. The board will update you as to where and when next year's conference will be once the plans have been finalized.

In July I attended the ASCLS national conference in Atlanta with Shelly Smith as the CLSA rep. I would like to congratulate Shellie on her appointment to Region IX Director (see page 2 for a message from Shellie). I would like to invite you all to join me in thanking Mary Lashinski, outgoing Region IX Director, for all of her hard work during her term.

Also, please join me in welcoming our new ASCLS National President Catherine Otto. She is also from Region IX and started her term August 1st 2011.

Here is a message from Catherine about her new term; "We have many plans for this year, from revising several position papers, voicing our position to our members of Congress, to the next steps in examining the concept of a merger with CLMA." Read more about the ASCLS/CLSA merger on page 5 of this newsletter. If interested in more info or updates on Catherine Otto's term as ASCLS president you can view her Facebook page at Cathy Otto ASCLS President on Facebook.com

One of the major focuses of ASCLS Nationally, and for my term as president with CLSA locally, is membership recruitment and retention. As of September 6<sup>th</sup> we have 73 active members, with 42 members that have not yet renewed for the 2011-2012 membership year. I will be discussing strategies with the board for getting our members to renew and encouraging new members to join. Our members are our number one priority and we need to include as many Laboratorians as possible in our organization.

During my term I will stay in touch with the members by keeping in contact and updating everyone with updates about the organization. There will be a lot to share with you over this next year. I will be sending out regular e-mail messages; please look for these messages in your in-box and share the information with your colleagues. Additionally, I will be putting out a small 1 page newsletter called the CLSA Funny Pages with lab related cartoons and activities as well as info on our group. I will be sending this out to current members, past members, and any other Laboratorians who are interested. I think this could be a fun way to give CLSA a presence in the lab and encourage new membership.

Thank you for your continued membership in CLSA/ASCLS and your commitment to the profession. You can contact me anytime with questions and suggestions on my personal email [constance.stager@hotmail.com](mailto:constance.stager@hotmail.com).

*Constance Stager*

## Election Results and 2011 Awards

---

### Election Results:

President Elect: Shannon Billings

Secretary: Tony Gregston

First Year Professional: Shannon Albright

District Director – Arctic Interior Region: Teresa Johnson

Nominations & Elections Committee: B. J. Anderson

Central Region District Director Appointee: Silvia Schilling

Toni Collins

District Director – South Eastern Region: Jeane Frickey

Steve Pyle

### Awards:

#### **Omicron Sigma Award State of Alaska**

Shellie Smith: Conference Program, ByLaws Chair  
Tony Gregston: Conference Registration, Secretary  
Teresa Johnson: Scholarship Committee Chair, DD  
Heidi Mannion: Licensure, UAA MLT Liaison  
Jill Jefson: Conference Planning, Treasurer  
Lorrie Seago: Web Master, redesigned & revitalized website  
Constance Stager: TAT Editor, President Elect  
Bill Doughty: Scholarship Committee, Western DD, outreach

#### **Omicron Sigma Award Region IX**

Peregrina Roberson – Region IX Student Representative  
B. J. Anderson – Region IX Secretary, CLSA Past-President  
Gloria Tomich – CLSA President  
National – Recommendation by CLSA Pres  
Mary Lashinski – Region IX Director  
Holly Berg – Chair, New Professionals Committee

#### **Key to the Future**

This award serves to recognize and reward ASCLS members who have demonstrated their leadership potential to the organization, and to provide these members with structured mentoring.

Allison Theriault  
Peregrina Roberson  
Constance Stager

#### **Gold Nugget Award**

In appreciation for an organization's contributions to CLSA and to the professional growth of laboratory professionals in Alaska

#### **Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center**

Paid for ANHC staff to attend conference  
Meet me Line for BOD meetings  
2 speakers for 2011 conference



Hello, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little about myself and my excitement/fears at being the Region IX director for the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science



(ASCLS). Many of the Clinical Laboratory Scientists of Alaska (CLSA) members already know me from various committees I have worked on. I have been in the laboratory field for many years, first working the bench as a general technologist, then a specialist in microbiology, a CLIA laboratory inspector and currently a laboratory manager. Now I get to add a new chapter to my career as the Region IX Director.

I made a pledge to the profession and became a member of the ASCLS Board at the conclusion of the business meeting in Atlanta this past July.

That pledge included: 1) Maintain and promote standards of excellence in performing and advancing the art and science; 2) Preserve the dignity and privacy of patients; 3) Uphold and maintain the dignity and respect of our profession; 4) Seek to establish cooperative and respectful working relationships with other health professionals; and 5) Contribute to the general well being of the community. While I have always tried to set these standards for myself, I hope I will be able to hold up to them in the eyes of my peers and the public. It promises to be an interesting next three years.

I have been assigned to work on two committees, the Minutes committee and the New Product Development Committee. As a member of the Minutes committee, I will be working with a few others to record the minutes of the ASCLS business teleconferences and meetings. I know already that I will have to practice my active listening skills and record activities as they happen and not try to rely on my memory. Paying attention and staying on top of meetings is going to be a real challenge for me.

The New Product Development Committee has a goal of facilitating or creating 4 on-line courses this next year. Some of the topics discussed for courses included: Transplantation Medicine, Molecular Techniques, Basic Review of Clinical Chemistry, and a RBC/WBC course of some sort. The committee is currently trying to find subject matter experts who may be able to work on these projects. Stay tuned for more information as the year passes.

As a board member, I take responsibility for assuring that the affairs of ASCLS are conducted honestly and competently. I will exercise the highest level of care, skill and judgment in the performance of my duties to ASCLS and those members in Region IX that have appointed me to represent them. I will have the opportunity to take action or express views on matters that directly affect the profession of clinical laboratory science and those who practice. Therefore, your ideas and issues are important for me to know and I encourage you to contact me at [ssmith07@acsalaska.net](mailto:ssmith07@acsalaska.net). I look forward to working with all of you.

**Allison attended the ASCLS National Meeting as the Student Representative for CLSA. Below is her report:**

From Anchorage, it takes roughly 7 hours to fly the 4,300 miles to Atlanta, Georgia. If you factor in multiple flights, layover times, and delays, the actual travel time is quite longer. But despite the vast distance and the exhaustion of air travel, Alaska was very well represented at the ASCLS National Meeting. A total of six Alaskans attended the conference, and as the student delegate I am proud to say that three of these attendees were students.

This particular conference was my second one, and as I watched my two fellow students experience their first conference, I realized the value of students and new professionals in our field. While every medical lab scientist should attend at least one ASCLS national meeting, I realized how especially important it is for our students and new professionals to attend. In the expo hall, they meet vendors and see new technology. The seminars give them ways to ask questions and expand on the education fresh in their mind. The social functions and gatherings allow them to experience professional networking, the importance of which is difficult for my Internet generation to grasp until it is personally experienced. Attending professional events such as the ASCLS national meeting allows them to fully realize all the opportunities this field provides and greatly increases their excitement for the profession. They bring this fresh energy and enthusiasm with them as they enter the workplace.

Students and new professionals can help solve many of the problems I hear discussed at these conferences. Professional societies in all fields are having issues with member retention, which can be partially resolved by courting student and new professional populations. Personality conflicts among the staff? Teach students work place conflict resolution while they're still in school. Medical lab science programs are closing across the country, and with the high price of out of state tuition, many of these displaced students are likely to change majors instead of leaving the state for another med tech program. Wouldn't it be grand if other medical lab science programs offered in state tuition to students who were previously enrolled in a shut-down program? This would actually be a mutually beneficial arrangement, as the program could then use the increased number of students to justify the cost of running their degree program to the university.

Students and new professionals are already getting more involved. Last year, only three people ran for student forum positions: Two for the student forum chair, one for the vice president, and no one ran for the secretary position. This year we had a total of 8 people, with competition for every seat. It was very encouraging to see. Additionally, more and more new professionals and students are seeking more education, professional opportunities, and even volunteer opportunities.

This demographic shouldn't be ignored. Universities and professional organizations such as ASCLS already see the importance of students, and I hope that the employers can recognize their potential and use it to provide better quality healthcare.

Annual ASCLS Meeting, Atlanta GA. 2011 Report:

Attending the 2011 American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) annual conference was a rewarding experience. The conference offered a variety of sessions and social events. The Board of Directors meeting discussed issues relevant to our profession and organization. The social gathering for students and first time attendees was a success; students got the opportunity to meet their future colleagues. The CDC museum tour was time well spent outside the conference. At the ASCLS social gathering, students were enthusiastic to meet other scientists and for the opportunity to network. Student delegates voted for the student chair; however I will be recommending a change to the bylaws that will allow all students present to vote. During the Region's IX meeting we discussed relevant issues and possible changes to our organization. The expo with over 2000 vendors exhibited the newest technology and also 15 minute presentations prepared by well known professors. Laposata M. and Meisel J. 2011, "Right Diagnosis, Right Laboratory Test, Right on Time", *ASCLS Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, GA. was one of the most eye opening presentations. It gave me an understanding of changes that will affect us as professionals and our role in the laboratory. The annual meeting is an experience that I will never forget and having the opportunity to share it with some of my fellow students made the experience even more enjoyable.

The Board of Directors meeting was educational. An issue that students need to be aware of is the "Elevator Speech", a simple way of saying who we are and what we do. There were a variety of suggestions but first we needed to come to an agreement of how to present ourselves, lab tech, medical technologist or laboratory scientist. We agreed to present ourselves as Medical Laboratory Scientists, and as far for what we do, a simple answer is still up for discussion. Allison T., our student representative, presented an effective way to answer this question. An elevator speech will go something like this:

Public- What is your profession?

MLS-I am a Medical Laboratory Scientist.

Public- Oh, so what exactly is that?

MLS- Have you or someone you know had their blood drawn

Public- Yes/No

MLS- Well, we are the ones that run the tests in the laboratory, so that you/a person can get treated.

It is important that we advertise our -profession. We need for the public to know who we are and the importance of our profession in health care. While at school we (students) have the opportunity to advertise our profession in every event that we organize.

In the social gathering for students and first time attendees I was impressed to see students who are interested in our profession and plan on being active members. I had the chance to meet Majka Chloupkova (Maja) Oregon's student representative; she has wonderful ideas on how to get students involved in ASCLS. In the ASCLS social gathering students had the opportunity to network and meet working professionals. These mentors are a wonderful resource that we as students can rely on for expertise and suggestions on accomplishing our professional goals.

---

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) museum tour was a challenging tour to organize. I want to thank Katie P., Carmel S. and Allison T., for all their help in arranging the tour. During the tour we learned about CDC history, we saw exhibitions on subjects such as malaria, smallpox, TB and many others. It was interesting to see the evolution of medicine from this perspective. They also had a strong and emotional exposition against violence toward women and children. The CDC museum was an interesting tour. I was impressed with their work and the advancement in technology.

The student forum, according to Allison T. and Katie P., was a success. Student participation was far greater than the 2010 annual meeting. They were ready to give suggestions and to work toward improving our organization. We defined ASCLS, and discussed benefits, roles, issues on recruiting, and reasons why students do not know about ASCLS. The merger of ASCLS with CLMA was a topic that we were all eager to explore. It was explained how this could benefit us by gaining valuable members and strengthening our numbers. Finally, we discussed and were challenged to discover a way to keep students enrolled after graduation. According to membership data, a vast number of student members do not renew their membership after graduation. We need to keep recruiting and renewing our memberships. Suggestions are always appreciated. Voting for the Student Chair was challenging. Student delegates had various candidates to choose from. They all had wonderful ideas on how to keep students involved in our profession and how to be productive in recruiting. There were approximately 30 students and according to the bylaws only student delegates are allowed to vote. We agreed on making suggestions to change the bylaws to allow all students that are present to vote, not just student delegates. Congratulations to our new Student Chair Jasmin Davis, Vice chair Anji Nolan and Secretary Matthew Kamulski.

---

## **2011 Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium**

It won't be long until the leaves on the trees begin showing their glorious fall colors, the temperatures begin cooling off and the prime autumn opportunity for continuing medical laboratory education and professional networking is upon us. The NWMLS committee, composed of medical laboratory professionals from throughout the northwest, has once again planned a dynamic program. The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and the American Medical Technologists (AMT) invite you to join us in Lynwood, Washington for this year's Symposium October 12 – 15, 2011.



## **CLSA Conference 2012 Report**

Gloria Tomich, Past President and Conference Chair

The 2012 CLSA conference will be held in Anchorage sometime in April in some local hotel – more precise information will be in the next newsletter. I am just now asking for volunteers to be on the Planning Committee. There are always many tasks to be done for a successful conference and if there are many volunteers, then each has a smaller time commitment. If you are interested in helping with any of the committees or at the conference itself please contact me at [gatomich@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:gatomich@uaa.alaska.edu).

## ASCLS - CLMA Announcement

---

August 17 2011

The Boards of Directors of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and the Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA) are excited to announce their mutual support for the concept of merging the two organizations. Both boards are entering into a period of final due diligence, outlined in further detail below.

Members of both organizations were notified by their respective boards in March, 2011 of the formation of the CLMA/ASCLS Strategic Alliance (CASA) task force. The 10 member task force, 5 from ASCLS and 5 from CLMA, studied how such a combined organization might operate – including areas such as (but not limited to) programs, services, governance, culture, and mission. CASA delivered their final report to the boards of ASCLS and CLMA on June 24.

The CLMA Board voted unanimously, on June 27, to accept the findings of The CASA Report. During the week of July 25th, the ASCLS Board of Directors and the House of Delegates voted unanimously to accept the findings of the CASA Report.

As indicated above, both boards have entered into individual final due diligence efforts. These efforts include a detailed review of financials and a review and consideration of a legal opinion on how to best effectuate a merger.

Should the final due diligence yield favorable information, both boards will likely vote on a proposition to merge the associations into a new or combined organization – it is presumed that final due diligence will require approximately 3-4 months.

Membership, local leaders, sponsors/supporters, partners, and all stakeholders are being notified of the recent 'official' decisions by each board. Based on the CASA report, there is a presumption that the news will be received VERY favorably by all. Both boards are fully committed to maintaining an open and transparent dialogue with membership and stakeholders as discussions progress.

### **Specific statements and issues from The CASA Report:**

ASCLS and CLMA share a vision that the combined organization will be the premier resource for medical laboratory professionals and laboratory leadership to maintain and enhance their knowledge of medical laboratory science and best practices. Its mission will be to promote the practice of excellence in medical laboratory medicine through education, advocacy, and networking.

The combined organization would remain international in scope, with a national governing board, and have local representation. There would be significant opportunities for member engagement via committees, task forces, volunteer involvement and advocacy. Membership would be open to: scientific and technical personnel; laboratory managers and administrators; students; educators; and all those who support medical laboratories and medical laboratory professionals.

## ASCLS - CLMA Announcement Continued

---

The mission and goals of the new combined organization would also include publications such as a peer-reviewed journal, regularly scheduled newsletter, weekly e-newsletters, the Body of Knowledge for Clinical Laboratory Professionals and the Body of Knowledge for Medical Laboratory Management. It would also be the intent to convene a general annual meeting and specialty meetings such as a Legislative Symposium, a Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference, a Clinical Laboratory Administrators and Managers Meeting, and Chapter Constituent Society and Regional Meetings with ample opportunities for vendor exhibits.

ASCLS:

Catherine Otto, ASCLS President

[President@ascls.org](mailto:President@ascls.org)

CLMA:

Rod Forsman, CLMA President

[President@clma.org](mailto:President@clma.org)

---

## CASA Taskforce

### ASCLS – CLMA STRATEGIC ALLIANCE Q&A (June 2011)

#### Q&A – General questions on the combined organization

***1. What is the timeline for this process?***

The ASCLS and CLMA respective governing boards have approved the concept of a combined organization, and have agreed to jointly proceed over the next few months with implementation and transition planning, utilizing due diligence on legal modeling and a financial pro forma. The process is intended to be seamless for members and would begin with a gradual blending of programs and membership benefits following the final agreement

***2. How will the name of the organization be arrived at?***

Naming the combined organization will most likely occur at the conclusion of the implementation process with significant input from the membership of both organizations.

***3. Is the draft vision and mission consistent with the current vision and mission statements of ASCLS and CLMA?***

Yes. A comparison of current statements and the proposed statements will reveal significant overlap of language as well as the complete incorporation of ideas.

## ASCLS – CLMA STRATEGIC ALLIANCE Q&A Continued

---

***4. Is there an opportunity to add values that I believe are absent in the Core Values component of the document that are, in my mind important?***

Yes. As the Bylaws and other governing documents are drafted, there will be revisions made based upon feedback from members.

### **Q&A Publications and Education**

***5. Will we still continue to have a journal?***

We anticipate the combined organization will have a journal focusing on current laboratory science technical, management, and educational issues; however, the format has not yet been determined.

***6. Will we still continue to have an organizational newsletter?***

We anticipate the combined organization will have a newsletter focusing on organizational activities, member activities, and current industry issues; however, the format has not yet been determined.

***7. Will publications be combined immediately?***

The combined organization will continue to provide publications during the transition period; however, decisions about combining publications have not yet been finalized.

***8. Will the combined organization continue to offer PACE credit?***

PACE has not specifically been discussed, but we anticipate it will continue.

***9. CLMA publications are electronic so will all future publications only be available electronically?***

No decisions have been made regarding the mode of distributing publications. The implementation task force will investigate the most appropriate mechanism for distribution.

***10. The ASCLS Body of Knowledge has a laboratory administration section and CLMA has a new Body of Knowledge. What will happen with these documents?***

The Body of Knowledge documents are important to the profession and will be maintained, developed and promoted by the combined organization. One possibility is that the ASCLS document, last revised in 2004, may be updated consistent with the CLMA format and may adopt the CLMA Body of Knowledge for medical laboratory management.

***11. As an educator, I value education-related articles in CLS. Will these continue?***

We anticipate that the combined organization will have a journal with a mix of education, management, and technical content.

***12. What changes will be made regarding the organizations' involvement with the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC)?***

Both ASCLS and CLMA are actively engaged with the BOC, and we anticipate that the combined organization will be as well.

## ASCLS – CLMA STRATEGIC ALLIANCE Q&A Continued

---

### ***13. CLS is indexed by PubMed. Will this be lost with the new journal?***

The task force is aware of the importance of a publication being indexed by PubMed and will strive to maintain that recognition.

### ***14. I can't travel to attend the large conference my organization has each year. What other kinds of continuing education opportunities will be available with the combined organization?***

We recognize the value of continuing education and the need to offer education in a variety of formats. The implementation team will look at types of programs offered by both organizations and at the options for delivering educational activities before making any decisions.

### **Q&A – Meetings**

### ***15. How do I plan for the annual conference if CLMA is in the spring and ASCLS is in July...When will the combined conference be scheduled?***

Currently both ASCLS and CLMA have short term commitments for their respective annual conferences in the near future. However once negotiations are complete and both organizations are set to combine, a timeline will be established and announced for the annual meeting dates.

### ***16. I attend the ASCLS/CLMA meetings for specific topics and presentations...will these still be available?***

Both ASCLS and CLMA are known for their quality educational programs and presentations, so we are combining the best of the best, and a variety of educational session tracks will be available to attendees at all meetings.

### ***17. I attend the annual ASCLS meeting as a delegate or ThinkLab as a Chapter Leader...how will this occur with the combined organization?***

The governance structure of the combined organization will be designed to assure that there is representation from all constituent societies (chapters and/or states) that will vote on the mission, policies and bylaws of the combined organization at the annual meeting.

### **Q&A – Membership**

### ***18. What will the dues of the combined organization be?***

The implementation team will review the membership categories and membership fees to reflect the broader nature of the membership and the enhanced membership benefits of the combined organization, with the guiding principle of aiming to attract all current ASCLS and CLMA membership, as well as set a foundation for growth.

## ASCLS – CLMA STRATEGIC ALLIANCE Q&A Continued

---

***19. I am a member of both organizations. Should I renew both memberships? Will I get a refund from one if the 2 organizations combine?***

You should maintain both memberships while both organizations are separate, as each continues to provide distinct membership benefits. When they combine, specific provisions will be extended to members who have been supporting both CLMA and ASCLS.

### **Q&A – Chapters**

***20. Will chapters/societies of the combined organization be based on state boundaries, like ASCLS or Chapters, like CLMA's current structure?***

Although a final decision on structure will be made by the Implementation team, the Task Force looked at the structure of both organizations and is recommending that in general the new organization follow a state based structure, with modifications where it makes more sense to use a population center based structure.

***21. CLMA Chapters currently have a Chapter Agreement with the parent organization, and ASCLS Constituent Societies do not. Is there a preferred model?***

The Task Force has recommended that the combined organization have Chapter Agreements with their constituent groups. The details of these Chapter Agreements will be worked out by the Implementation team.

### **Q&A – Governance**

***22. The composition of the Board of Directors for ASCLS and CLMA are very different. How will the two Boards be merged? What will the new Board look like?***

What the new Board looks like, along with the new bylaws, will be up to the implementation team and will need to be approved by both Boards and the ASCLS House of Delegates, with a likely transition period to allow for proper migration to combined governance.

***23. How will the combined organization be governed? What is the fate of the ASCLS House of Delegates and the CLMA Council of Chapter Leaders?***

Some of the decisions are yet to be determined, and will be formally worked out by the implementation team. However, there is general agreement that a national representative body, similar to the ASCLS House of Delegates, must be maintained in the future. Local leader involvement is critical to the success of the combined organization.

June 2011

**CLINICAL LABORATORY  
SCIENTISTS OF ALASKA**

Turn Around Times Editor  
Constance Stager  
PO Box 203  
Kotzebue, AK 99752



Printing & Postage Provided  
by Alaska Scientific, Inc.



**We're on the WEB!!!**

*State* [www.clsaonline.org](http://www.clsaonline.org)

*Regional* [www.ASCLSR9.org](http://www.ASCLSR9.org)

*National* [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)

Also: Check us out on Facebook!

**Inside This Issue:**

2011 Election Results and Awards	Pg1	Region IX Student Representative	pg 5-6
Notes From the Prez	pg 2	Conference Update	pg 7
Greetings from Your Region IX Director	pg 3	ASCLS - CLMA Announcement	pg 7-8
Student Member Report	pg 4	ASCLS – CLMA STRATEGIC ALLIANCE Q&A	pg 8-11

**Dates to Remember:**

Annual Meeting Steering Committee Meeting: Los Angeles, CA September 9-10 , 2011

Executive Committee Meeting: Los Angeles, CA September 10-11, 2011

Fall Board Reports Due: October 3, 2011

Fall Board Reports Due: *National Office and President* October 10, 2010

2011 Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium October 12 – 15, 2011.

Board of Directors Fall Meeting Conference Call October 27, 2011

Clinical Laboratory Educators. Conference: Salt Lake City, UT February 23-25, 2012

Board of Directors Interim Meeting & Planning Day March 17-18, 2012

Legislative Symposium; Washington, DC March 19-20, 2012