WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Wisconsin, I would like to thank you for joining us at the 2026 Annual ASCLS-WI State Convention! We are so excited for this opportunity to gather once more, in our newest conference location: the Kalahari Resorts & Conventions in the Wisconsin Dells on April 14th and 15th, with the Student Trivia Bowl, and Recruitment Fair the evening prior on April 13th.

This conference provides opportunities for Wisconsin's medical laboratory community to learn, connect, and grow together. Our program this year features a diverse range of topics intended to accommodate all areas of the laboratory, at all stages of the career ladder. We are so thankful to our speakers for taking their time to share with us new, exciting, and interesting information in laboratory medicine. These presentations are sure to inspire, and keep you updated on new developments in the field.

We are also incredibly humbled by, and thankful for our industry partners' collective support for our field. Make sure to take advantage of dedicated breaks between programming to stop by their booths and see what new technological advancements could be coming soon to a laboratory near you!

Finally, I encourage you to take the time to engage with your peers, reconnect with old friends, and even make some new ones! There will be ample opportunity for networking, and focusing on what lies at the heart of our organization: each other. This conference exists solely because of your commitment to laboratory medicine. Without you, our generous members and attendees, this organization would not be possible. Thank you.

Thank you again for everything you do for laboratory medicine, and for joining us here at the Kalahari! We hope to create a meaningful, memorable experience for you, and that you leave feeling inspired to make a difference in our profession.

Welcome, Adventure awaits.

Sincerely,
Clayton Fraker, MLT(ASCP)^{cm}
President, ASCLS-WI 2025-2026

ASCLS WI Educational Program:

New this year: Student Track Courses! Courses that have been highlighted on our "Student Track" are great for student review/high level education about various laboratory disciplines that will help prepare for the ASCP Board Exams.

Opening Keynote Presentation

The Human Factor: Why Safety Starts with you **(SAF)**

Dan Scungio, MLS(ASCP), SLS, CQA(ASQ) and Jason Nagy, PhD, MLS(ASCP)QLS

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

This engaging keynote explores the critical role of human behavior in laboratory safety, emphasizing that safety begins with personal responsibility. Attendees will discover how the lab environment shapes reasoning and safety behavior patterns. This session delves into the psychology behind unsafe practices, the gap between perceived and actual safety, and the importance of leadership and shared responsibility in cultivating a strong safety culture. Participants will leave with actionable strategies to break unsafe habits and foster intentional safety practices in their work environments.

Objectives:

- Identify common human factors contributing to laboratory incidents
- Assess the discrepancy between perceived and actual safety conditions
- Apply strategies to build a proactive safety culture

Breakout Educational Sessions and Meetings

#1 Student Track! Why Manual Microscopy Still Matters: Comparative Evidence on Automated Urine Sediment Analysis Performance **(U)**

Sarah Bergbower, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

This session will utilize cases and audience participation to emphasize the medical laboratory professional's role in critical microscopic examination of urinary sediment. Automated systems may

improve speed and workflow but show poor sensitivity for pathological casts, dysmorphic or uncommon cells, rare crystals, and even organisms, making manual microscopy essential for confirmation.

Objectives

- Explain the comparative performance of manual urine microscopy versus automated analyzers.
- Interpret sensitivity data for automated analyzers across different urine sediment categories.
- Evaluate clinical implications of performance gaps in urinalysis methods.

#2 Anti-D, Anti-C, or Anti-G? Decoding the Serologic Puzzle (BB)

Sue Johnson, MSTM, MLS(ASCP)SBB[CM]

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

Decoding the serologic puzzle as to whether an individual has anti-D and anti-C or anti-G can be challenging. Through the use of case studies the process and procedures used to determine which antibodies are present will be reviewed to solve the puzzle!

Objectives:

- Describe G antigen and the biochemical structure of the proteins that carry G
- Explain the relationship between D, C and G antigen
- Discuss how to determine if anti-G, anti-D and anti-C are present using adsorption and elutions

#3 Laboratory Implications from the Report to Congress on Electronic Ordering and Reporting of Laboratory Test Results (G)

Andrea Pitkus, PhD, MLS(ASCP)[CM], FAMIA

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

Learn about the recently released Report to Congress by the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy/Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ASTP/ONC) on Standards for Electronic Ordering and Reporting of Laboratory Test Results. Discussion of challenges, survey results, and improvements laboratories can implement will occur. Recommended action items will be shared including policy, vendor certification, and federal requirements such as incentive programs and the proposed HTI-2 rule. Opportunities for laboratorian involvement will be described.

Objectives:

- List at least 2 exchange standards recommended for laboratory adoption in the ONC/ASTP Laboratory Report.
- State at least 2 benefits of use of standards for laboratory data

- Identify the standards listed in USCDI for laboratory related data elements

#4 Laboratory's impact on Population Health (G)

Elizabeth Dahlgren

Level of Instruction: Basic

Population health helps move healthcare to proactive healthy care instead of reactive care. Learn how health systems are navigating this new paradigm and how the laboratory can directly impact population outcomes.

Objectives:

- Describe the difference between public and population health
- Summarize Value Based Care and why healthcare is moving in that direction
- Explain lab's role in Value Based care through 2 case studies

#5 AI in the Clinical Laboratory Setting (G)

Erin Geddes

Level of Instruction: Basic

This presentation will cover the potential that AI has in the clinical laboratory setting, along with what you as a laboratorian can do to keep up with the discoveries being made rapidly in an ever-growing field.

Objectives:

- Understand AI technology and how it is categorized
- Understand what the participant can do to grow with AI in the Laboratory
- Understand the call to action for clinical laboratorians to move laboratory medicine forward in terms of artificial intelligence

#6 It's a Marathon, not a Sprint. Lessons Learned from an Extended system wide downtime (G)

Michael Feierstein, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SBB

Level of Instruction: Basic

We rely on our electronic records every day, and many of us are anxious about losing access for a few hours. Is your team ready to face a system downtime of a few days? What about 2 weeks? Michael will share the lab perspective on some of the strategies developed and lessons learned during a 6 week long downtime at a healthcare organization that experienced a cyberattack.

Objectives:

- Identify aspects of the laboratory / hospital operations that are automated by your computer systems, and are therefore subconscious.
- Categorize downtime operations by impact to the patient and the organization.
- Develop a plan for short term, long term, and extended downtime operations

#7 The Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network: a nationally-recognized network for training, infectious disease surveillance, outbreak response, and so much more! (G)

Allen Bateman, PhD, MPH, D(ABMM)

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

The Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network (WCLN) is a longstanding collaboration between clinical laboratories in Wisconsin and the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH), the state's public health laboratory. Initially developed to respond to potential bioterrorism, the WCLN has evolved and grown into a robust network of laboratories and is nationally known for its durable connections and strengths in pathogen surveillance and outbreak response. Key activities of the WCLN include free continuing education credit via webinars and in-person meetings, routine communication amongst labs, and ongoing relationships that lead to strong pathogen surveillance and quick responses to infectious disease outbreaks.

Objectives:

- Describe the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene's mission and work
- Explain the development and maintenance of the Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network
- Discuss how longstanding relationships are the bedrock of successful network

#8 Student Track! Fear Factor: Coagulation Review (H)

Kathryn Golab, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SH^{CM}

Level of Instruction: Basic

Get ready and challenge your coagulation knowledge! This interactive session will review the systems involved with blood coagulation, laboratory testing in the coagulation section, and laboratory professional's role in the diagnosis of coagulation disorders.

Objectives:

- Outline the differences between primary and secondary coagulation
- Describe the pathophysiology of abnormal clotting disorders

- Recognize laboratory tests and their use in diagnosing blood disorders

#9 Student Track! Laboratory Assessment of Adrenal Disorders (C)

Rob Nerenz, PhD, DABCC

Level of Instruction: Basic

This session will summarize the signs and symptoms of adrenal disorders, describe underlying pathophysiology, and explain screening and confirmatory tests used in evaluation and monitoring. This will be followed by a case-based discussion illustrating the application of these tests to real patient scenarios.

Objectives:

- Recognize clinical presentations of adrenal excess and insufficiency
- Summarize screening and confirmatory tests for adrenal disorders
- Apply laboratory testing to the diagnosis and management of patients with suspected adrenal disorders

#10 Tomorrow's Laboratory, Today: Embracing a Future-Ready Mindset (G)

Michelle R. Campbell, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}MB^{CM}SC^{CM}

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

Laboratory science is rapidly transforming, creating abundant opportunities for those ready to embrace change and shape the future of the lab. Success in this evolving environment requires a future-ready mindset that extends beyond formal titles and roles. This session will explore how leaders at all levels can model adaptability, influence strategic planning, and drive transformative initiatives within their teams. Attendees will come away with a forward-looking perspective on shaping the modern laboratory while navigating emerging technologies such as automation and artificial intelligence, as well as an ever-evolving regulatory landscape, to confidently meet the challenges and opportunities of our field.

Objectives:

- Develop strategies to lead effectively through change at all levels of the laboratory
- Implement practices that promote a future-oriented mindset and adaptability among colleagues
- Model behaviors and professional practices that inspire and influence others to advance laboratory practices

#11 The Lab's Impact of Teamwork and Collaborative Leadership (G)

Doryan Redding, MSHS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

Level of Instruction: Basic

This session seeks to empower lab professionals to enhance their communication skills and advocate for their role in improving patient outcomes and team dynamics. Together we will explore bridging gaps through clear communication and professional advocacy to address misunderstandings and promote the visibility and value of medical laboratory professionals in healthcare.

Objectives:

- Identify key communication techniques to promote effective interactions
- Apply the ICE communication model to navigate clinical misunderstandings
- Devise strategies for professional advocacy to increase the profession's visibility and recognition

#12 Student Track! Tropical Fever-Emerging Infectious Diseases (M)

Matt Humphrey, BS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

This session will look at emerging public health threats associated with tropical fevers. We will identify the symptom overlap that occurs in this disease state that makes the organisms associated with tropical fever challenging to identify. Additionally, we will do a deep dive into the pathogenesis and treatment options while also uncovering gaps in current diagnostics. Our session will primarily focus on Malaria, Dengue virus, Chikungunya, and Leptospirosis as emerging pathogens for tropical fever.

Objectives:

- Identify causes and overlaps associated with tropical fever.
- Break down current laboratory diagnostics that aid in identification of organisms associated with tropical fever.
- Examine how emerging technology can address diagnostic gaps and aid in clinical decision making.

#13 Speed Case Studies (G)

Hunter Crawford-Olesen MLT(ASCP), Eleanor Guhl, MLT(ASCP), and Grace Overbeek, MLS(ASCP)

Level of Instruction: Basic

Three recent graduates have found cases in their new careers to share with you!

Case 1 – A look at Pseudohyperkalemia due to increased White Blood Cell Count

Case 2 – A premature newborn with increased Iron Laden Macrophages
Case 3 – Diagnosis and treatment of Myeloid Leukemia in a newborn

Objectives:

- Illustrate how extreme leukocytosis in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia can cause pseudohyperkalemia
- Describe the significance of iron-laden macrophages in cerebrospinal fluid, and illustrate how their presence helps clinicians understand underlying pathology in an extremely premature infant.
- Describe the clinical presentation, diagnostic challenges, and therapeutic considerations in a newborn diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.

#14 Student Track! Microbiology in the Hematology lab? Hematology Case Studies (H)

Kathryn Golab, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SH^{CM} and Maria Hintzke, MD

Level of Instruction: Basic

Back at it again! Hematology Case Study Duo Dr. Golab and Dr. Hintzke are back with more case studies for review, and this time they are branching out into the Microbiology lab? In this session, participants will review case studies that originated in hematology, but had a microorganism as the culprit for the laboratory abnormalities, instead of a hematologic disorder.

Objectives:

- Identify laboratory testing necessary to make a diagnosis
- Describe the pathophysiology of microorganisms discussed and how they can be identified in peripheral blood specimens
- Explain the importance of comprehensive peripheral blood smear examination in an infectious work-up

#15 Leveraging IPE Standards for Engaging Your Lab With Other Professions (G)

Patricia Boyer, MSHS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

Level of Instruction: Basic

What is IPE? In this session, we will explore the definition of Interprofessional Education and what role laboratorians have in IPE experiences. The session will also look at the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science's (NAACLS) new standards related to IPE and how laboratories can leverage this requirement to engage and collaborate with other healthcare professionals.

Objectives:

- Define Interprofessional Education (IPE).
- Identify strategies for incorporating IPE in any facility's laboratory practice.
- Analyze patient care scenarios through both discipline-specific and collaborative processes to inform effective interprofessional practices that include the laboratory.

#16 Student Track! Why I Fight: One Lab Professional's Journey into Advocacy (G)

Damien F. Garza, MLT(ASCP)

Level of Instruction: Basic

Behind every lab result is a professional committed to patient care—and a system that often overlooks their voice. In this powerful and personal session, Damien shares his journey from benchwork to Capitol Hill, showing how one medical laboratory scientist can spark real change. Attendees will learn how to get involved in advocacy at any level, discover the impact of policy on the lab profession, and leave feeling empowered to take action. Whether you're new to advocacy or already in the fight, this session will inspire you to raise your voice and defend the profession we love.

Objectives:

- Describe the role of advocacy in advancing the clinical laboratory profession at both the state and federal levels.
- Identify practical steps that individuals can take to become involved in legislative and grassroots advocacy, regardless of experience.
- Recognize the personal and professional impact of advocacy through a firsthand account of one lab professional's journey.

#17 Whose You Are: The Essence of Servant Leadership (G)

JOSEPH G. KEARY, MS, MBA; LIEUTENANT COLONEL, US ARMY (RETIRED)

Level of Instruction: Basic

Most personal development sessions focus on the phrase, "***Who are you"?*** While this is important, as leaders in our profession, it is also critical to consider **"*Whose are you*"?** We will study the development of this idea, as developed by Sister Theo Bowman.This presentation will discuss the concept of the Arbinger Outward Mindset and how it ties into the phrase "***Whose you are***" and servant leadership. Come prepared to engage in a spirited discussion of servant leadership, using your practical examples.

Objectives:

- Compare and contrast the ideas of "Who are you" and "Whose are you"?
- Discuss the various leadership concepts, with particular focus on servant leadership and how it

ties in with the primary topic.

- Present the basics of the Arbinger Outward Mindset and how it facilitates the understanding of "Whose you are".

#18 Student Track! The ABC's of the Alphabet Soup: Labeling yourself for Laboratory Success (G)

Miles Tompkins, MLT(ASCP)^{CM}PBT^{CM}QLS^{CM}, AHI(AMT)

Level of Instruction: Basic

What's in a name? Depending on the letters after it, quite a lot! In this session we will explore the many options to obtaining credentials, what they all mean, and why it is so important for professional success both internal and external to the Laboratory field.

Objectives:

- Explore the different credentials that pertain to and supplement a laboratory career.
- Define the pathways to obtain credentials that will achieve our career goals.
- Identify the benefits of obtaining credentials and how it promotes the laboratory profession.

#19 Learn Where You Work: A Distance Learning Approach to Solve the Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) Shortage (G)

Cory Sullivan, MA, MLS(ASCP) and Valerie Natzke, MS, MLS(ASCP)

Level of Instruction: Basic

Discover how our Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) Program is addressing the national MLT shortage, particularly in rural and underserved areas, through an innovative distance learning model that empowers phlebotomists, lab assistants, and specimen processors to become MLTs without leaving their workplaces. By combining online coursework with hands-on competencies in students' own clinical settings, this approach expands access, builds the workforce, and maintains high educational standards.

Objectives:

- Describe two instructional strategies that are used to ensure distance learners meet course competencies.
- Identify at least three innovative tools that enhance engagement and effectiveness in distance learning.
- Compare two key outcome measures between the in-person and distance learning options.

#20 From Species to Genes: A Diagnostic Paradigm in Microbiology (MB)

Pat Tille, PhD

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

In this session we will revisit the strategies that are moving microbiology more and more into the realm of molecular analysis in the clinical laboratory. We will evaluate the use of identifying organisms versus identifying genes and monitoring the systems that organisms use to evolve and transfer mobile genetic elements across species and genera. In addition we will consider the advances in microbiology and the development of personalized medicine to manage the transfer of AMR as well as the molecular physiological responses the bacteria use to mitigate the immune system.

Objectives:

- Describe the diagnostic strategies that have evolved from growth based to molecular analysis in the clinical laboratory
- Evaluate the clinical applications for identifying an organism versus identifying the genes to monitor, control and treat the evolving nature of AMR
- Describe the potential use for molecular medical microbiology as it relates to the physiological responses of bacteria and applications in personalized medicine

#21 Antiphospholipid Syndrome: Diagnostic Considerations (C)

Tara Bruner, MHS, PA-C

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

Antiphospholipid Syndrome (APS) presents significant diagnostic challenges due to its complex clinical manifestations and the intricacies of laboratory testing. This session provides laboratorians with an updated and practical overview of APS, emphasizing the relationship between clinical features, assay selection, and result interpretation. Attendees will review testing methodologies, lupus anticoagulant, anticardiolipin and anti–beta-2 glycoprotein I antibody testing, and will gain a clear understanding of their roles, limitations, and common sources of variability. The session will also highlight the most recent APS classification criteria and discuss their implications for laboratory practice.

Objectives

- Describe the clinical manifestations and pathophysiology of Antiphospholipid Syndrome and explain how these factors relate to the selection and interpretation of laboratory testing.
- Review APS testing methodologies, including lupus anticoagulant and antiphospholipid antibody assays
- Apply updated APS classification criteria to laboratory workflows and integrate clinical context

with laboratory findings to support reliable result interpretation and effective collaboration with healthcare providers.

#22 When Eosinophils Tell the Story: Detecting Benign, Reactive, and Malignant Pathways (H)

Demetra "Toula" Castillo, M.Ad.Ed., MLS(ASCP)^{CM}AHI(AMT)

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

Eosinophilia spans a wide diagnostic spectrum—from benign allergic responses to life-threatening clonal myeloid neoplasms. This session explores the modern laboratory approach to eosinophilia using a case-based, practical framework. Attendees will examine morphologic clues, common reactive triggers, red flags for clonal disorders, and appropriate reflex testing strategies, including molecular panels. Real patient cases will illustrate how integrating CBC parameters, smear review, and targeted testing can guide early recognition of eosinophilic leukemias, hypereosinophilic syndromes, and secondary causes such as parasites, drug reactions, and autoimmune disease. Participants will leave with a clear algorithmic approach to eosinophilia that improves communication between laboratorians, educators, and clinicians.

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

Objectives:

- By the end of this session, participants will be able to differentiate at least three common reactive causes of eosinophilia from clonal or neoplastic etiologies using CBC parameters and peripheral smear morphology.
- By the end of this session, participants will be able to apply a stepwise laboratory algorithm to determine when eosinophilia requires additional testing (e.g., flow cytometry, IgE levels, or molecular studies such as PDGFRA/B or FGFR1).
- By the end of this session, participants will be able to identify at least four morphologic or laboratory "red flags" that warrant urgent evaluation for hypereosinophilic syndrome or eosinophilic leukemia.

#23 Hemolytic Transfusion Reactions: From Bedside to Bench and Back (BB)

Caitlin Raymond, MD, PhD

Level of Instruction: Intermediate

This session uses a real-world case to explore acute and delayed hemolytic transfusion reactions from both clinical and laboratory perspectives. Participants will review mechanisms of immune-mediated hemolysis, the diagnostic approach to suspected transfusion reactions, and the interpretation of serologic findings including the DAT and eluate studies. The program will also highlight advances in treatment —

from supportive care to targeted therapies — and discuss how laboratory data can directly guide patient management.

Objectives:

- Describe the clinical and laboratory features of acute and delayed hemolytic transfusion reactions
- Discuss the role of antibody specificity and complement fixation in predicting the severity of hemolysis
- Summarize diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for managing hemolytic transfusion reactions, including supportive and emerging targeted therapies

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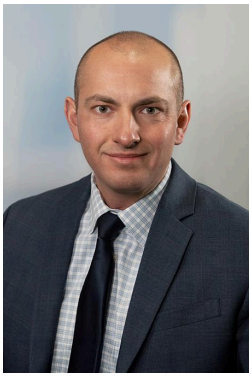
Closing Keynote Presentation



Making the Business case for Laboratory Investments (G)

David Shiembob, MBA, C(ASCP)

Level of Instruction: Basic

Every laboratory administrator is faced with the challenge of justifying a capital purchase. While lab leaders are well-versed in scientific and clinical considerations, most organizations also require justification on financial and operational grounds. This session provides a framework and recommendations for bridging the gap between laboratory and health system management, with the goal of demonstrating the value of the laboratory. Topics covered include an overview of relevant financial concepts, possible justifications for capital purchases, and compelling ways to make the case for laboratory investment in a variety of situations.

Objectives:

- Describe the financial and operational factors that can be used to justify a laboratory investment
- Understand how health system leadership evaluates capital requests
- Formulate effective justifications for laboratory investments that emphasize both financial and non-financial factors

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