



Membership Matters

ASCLS Recruitment Series Part III: History





History of ASCLS and the CLS Profession





CLS - The Beginning

- Can be traced back to the early 1900s
 - Development of public health labs to help combat the outbreak of infectious diseases
 - Employed women
 - Had been discouraged from entering scientific careers
 - Women's conceptual abilities were considered to be inferior to men's
 - Were willing to work for low wages





CLS – The Beginning

- 1919 – American College of Surgeons
 - Wanted to assure minimum standards for hospital care
 - Must establish a clinical laboratory
 - Must be physician in charge, preferably a pathologist





CLS – The Beginning

- Early 1930's
 - American Society of Clinical Laboratory Technicians (ASCLT) formed
 - Membership limited to BOR certified professionals
 - Inception of a Journal
 - Establishment of a Constitution and Bylaws
 - Began educating the public about the profession
 - Placed emphasis on importance of medical technology becoming a profession





ASCLT to ASMT

- 1936
 - Changed name from ASCLT to American Society of Medical Technologists (ASMT)
 - 500 members in 1937
 - Held an annual convention
 - Appointed Advisory Board to meet with BOR
- 1939
 - First State Charter
 - Texas Society of Medical Technologists





ASMT and the BOR

- Before 1940
 - Membership in BOR restricted to pathologists who were members of ASCP
- 1940
 - BOR amended constitution to allow MTs on the BOR with advisory duties only, no voting rights
 - Allowed 2 MTs from ASMT
 - Appointed 3 MTs at large
- 1946
 - BOR permitted the addition of 1 ASMT member for a total of 3 ASMT members





ASMT and the BOR

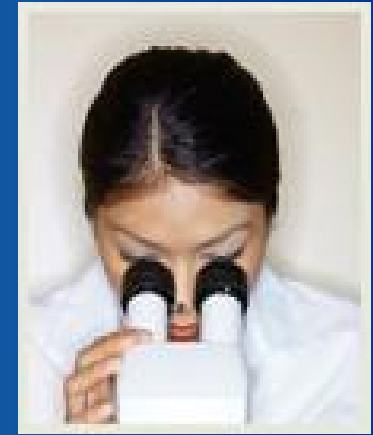
- 1948
 - Board of Schools (BOS) took over the BOR's accreditation function
 - Elected Board
 - 6 members of ASCP and 3 members of ASMT
- 1949
 - Allowed full voting rights to MTs
 - Total of 5 MTs
 - Total of 6 Pathologists





ASMT Moves Toward Independence

- 1947
 - ASMT held its first annual meeting independent of physicians' organizations
- 1948
 - Established Committees



- Education and Research
- Publications and Award
- Membership
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Nominations and Elections

- Standards and Studies
- Research
- Legislation
- Finance
- Education





Developing Professional Identity

- 1945-1962
 - Membership grew in ASMT
 - Diminished its reliance on ASCP for annual meetings and continuing education
 - Provided more services for its members
 - Expanded its range of activities
- Late 1950's
 - Took first steps toward seeking governmental recognition through personnel licensure laws
 - Educational qualifications
 - Scope of practice





ASMT the Professional Organization

- 1958
 - Well-defined organizations structure
 - Purpose:
 - to promote higher standards in clinical laboratory methods and research;
 - to elevate the status of those specializing in medical laboratory technology;
 - to create mutual understanding between the medical technologist and the physicians and all others who are employed in the interest of individual or public health;
 - to issue charters to constituent societies;
 - to promote the mutual aid and benefits of its members.





1960s – 1970s: Greater Autonomy

- Legal actions
 - 1968 – Supreme Court of New Jersey
 - Set limits on the BOR's control over MTs
 - BOR could not revoke certification of a MT if they decided to work in a laboratory operated by non-physician bioanalysts
 - 1969 – U.S. Department of Justice
 - Forbade the practice of decertifying personnel working for non-physicians
 - Annual registration became voluntary





1960s – 1970s: Greater Autonomy

- Legal actions (continued)
 - Justice Department criticized ASMT by saying the organization was “too supine and docile”
 - ASMT demanded equal representation on the BOR for MTs for the establishment of policies and procedures affecting accreditation and certification
 - ASMT advocated that the BOR be independent from both ASMT and ASCP
- 1969
 - Dr. William Selden, former Executive Director of the National Commission on Accrediting state that
 - A professional association must have full responsibility for admission of its members
 - This supported ASMTs advocacy for independent certification processes





1960s – 1970s: Greater Autonomy

- 1973
 - Commissioner of the U.S. Office of Education and the National Commission of Accrediting
 - Said BOS should have an autonomous relationship with ASCP
 - ASCP disbanded BOS
- 1974
 - National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences was formed
- 1977
 - National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel was created





ASMT in the 1970s

- Grew in numbers
 - Over 30,000 in 1976
- P.A.C.E was introduced
 - Documentation of continuing education
- Provided graduate programs
 - In conjunction with Central Michigan University
- Future Direction Plan
- Statements of competence
- Arranged for the introduction of the annual National Medical Laboratory Week
 - Increased public awareness of profession
- Members testified before congressional committees
- Changed name from America Society of Medical Technologists to American Society for Medical Technology





ASMT in the 1980s

- More involvement in national politics
- Started
 - Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference
 - Legislative Symposium
 - Moved office from Houston, Texas to Washington, D.C.
 - Became more involved in influencing legislation to advance the profession





ASMT/ASCLS in the 1990s

- ASMT became ASCLS
- Joined forces with the American Association for Clinical Chemistry
 - Holds one of the largest annual meetings in the country
- Provided input to the National Labor Relations board
 - Medical Technologists were finally recognized as **PROFESSIONALS**





What Has ASCLS Done for Us ?

- Over the Past **Seven** Decades, ASCLS has:
 - Advocated for the profession
 - Set standards
 - Provided education (professional and continuing)
 - Influenced legislation that impacted the field of clinical laboratory science
 - Fought for the rights of laboratorians
 - Has represented the best interests of laboratorians as individuals and collectively

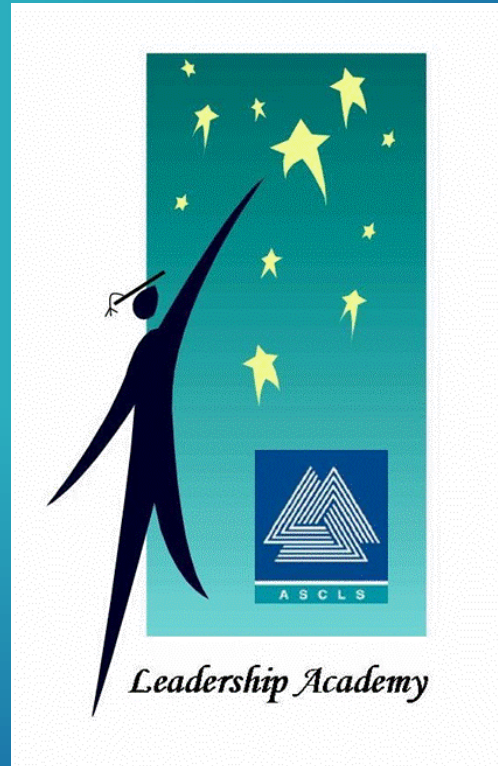




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