



VOLUSION...ASCLS SD

Grassroots explosion of **VOICE, VALUE, VISION**

Official publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science ~ South Dakota

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All ASCLS SD members are
invited to submit articles of
interest to the co-editors for
publication in future issues.



ASCLS NATIONAL MEETING 2006 - Chicago!

By: Patricia Tille, ASCLS-SD Past President

Laboratory professionals from all over the United States truly were all “Jazzed up” in Chicago at the annual meeting. The meeting was highlighted with outstanding entertainment, networking and an overall air of excitement and optimism. Main topics of this years meeting included the ASCP Board of Registry and National Credentialing Agency discussions related to laboratory certification. This initiative is moving forward under the direction from top representatives from both agencies. Overwhelming support and enthusiasm for this initiative was apparent by those attending the NCA presentation. Meeting attendees voiced confidence in ASCLS’s and NCA’s leadership and their commitment to maintaining the peer review component as well as the high level of integrity associated with NCA certification process and standards. ASCLS continues to pursue strong, collaborative efforts with other organizations to assure professional strength, position and provide leverage in national concerns such as competitive bidding that has been at the fore front of government affairs this past year.

In addition to the focus on collaborative efforts to develop a strong united front for the laboratory profession, ASCLS’s leadership announced a new proposed program targeted to developing future leaders within the laboratory profession. A “Leadership Academy” is being developed and will be kicked off in 2006 or 2007. National will be seeking nominations from state constituencies in the near future. States will be asked to submit names of potential candidates that desire to learn about ASCLS and have desire to become future leaders for the profession. The program will be designed to build the skills needed for strong leadership within the professional organization at all levels. The training this program will provide will not only benefit the society, but the skill sets and mentoring each academy participant receives will provide them with leadership skills applicable to their own career development as well. IF you are interested in this opportunity watch for upcoming information and announcements.

The closing House of Delegates was buzzing with excitement and enthusiasm. Often times the House of Delegates is faced with controversial issues that create long discussions, emotional testimonials and often times vast differences of opinions. This was not the case this year. The final House of Delegates seemed more like a closing keynote session filled with positive comments and outlooks for the future.

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AWARDS....AWARDS..... PUBLICATIONS & MEMBERSHIP!

ASCLS-South Dakota was very honored this year at the Award Ceremony. Our newsletter, "Volusion", was named First Place winner for web based publications! Having only begun our website just a little over a year ago and now being recognized for our State Newsletter truly is a wonderful accomplishment for ASCLS-SD. Many thanks go out not only to Lezlee Koch for her creativity and hours spent on the website and newsletter, but also to Ruth McFarland for her creative assistance in the naming of Volusion, board members and to all the members of our constituent society who have contributed articles, photos and items of interest for our state publications. ASCLS-SD was also honored to receive one of the coveted National Membership Awards! South Dakota was recognized for recruiting the highest percent of total membership of non-student members. Remember, recruitment is the responsibility of all members, if you know someone who has not been in ASCLS for some time, or someone whose professional position allows them to participate more fully then they may have been able to previously, recruit them. Students are definitely our key to longevity and the future vitality of our organization, but seasoned professionals offer tremendous strength and stability to our ranks.

Keep it up ASCLS-SD! Let's continue to move forward with the same drive, optimism and hope for the future that is evident in our constituency and at the National Level. Plan to attend the 2007 Annual Meeting in San Diego, the 2007 Tri-State meeting in ND and our state meetings in 2007 scheduled in Aberdeen and Rapid City.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: You Are Needed...You Are Important To Our Society & Our Professional Future!

By: Lori Murray, ASCLS-SD President 2006-07

My new role as President of ASCLS-SD makes me nervous. I see the work that has been put into the society in previous years, and the knowledge of those that went ahead of me, and realize I have big shoes to fill. I am always up for a challenge though (call me crazy). The other thing I know is that I have a great support system within ASCLS to help me. Not only did they give me all the tools I need when I attended the National meeting in July, but they also created a network of all the State Presidents so that we can work and learn together. I am also blessed with great Midwest leaders. The Midwest is greatly represented at the National Level currently. The President-elect for ASCLS is Rick Panning from Minnesota, and the Region V Director is our own Lezlee Koch.

A major goal for ASCLS-SD this year is to increase membership and enhance benefits to members. I want everyone to feel the energy that comes from networking with local, regional and national ASCLS members. Your opinion counts! There is no way our profession can forge ahead without your involvement! I am only one person with my own ideas, and for any project, committee or ideal to succeed, you need to see the entire picture.

ascls-sd.org



ASCLS-SD MEMBERS!

Have you visited our Web Page Lately?

www.ascls-sd.org

Current Pages:

- ➔ Our Purpose
- ➔ Membership & Benefits
- ➔ Student Career Information
- ➔ Event Calendar & Meetings
- ➔ ASCLS-SD Members Page
- ➔ Regional & National News
- ➔ Board of Directors – Meetings/Update
- ➔ Web Newsletter - VOLUSION
- ➔ Laboratory Links
- ➔ ASCLS-SD Leadership & Contacts
- ➔ Blips, Tips & Fun
- ➔ Management & Technical Tid Bits

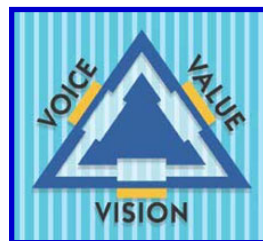
**PLUS NOW ...
THERE'S A NEW
MEMBER BENEFIT
ON OUR WEB SITE!!**

“MEMBERS ONLY RESOURCE PAGE”

- ➔ Analytical & Disease Specific References
- ➔ Management, Quality Systems, Pre & Post Analytical Quality References
- ➔ Motivational Posters Just For ASCLS-SD Members

One person cannot get an accurate view. I need your help!

My position with Avera Laboratory Network allows so many opportunities to interact with other laboratorians. I don't have an active role in laboratory testing, but am very close to the issues that are going on in the lab world. As I travel with my ALN job duties and talk with techs, phlebotomists, managers, vendors, etc... I am continually fascinated with the knowledge and devotion Clinical Laboratory Scientists have - the knowledge of healthcare process, and the devotion to the profession, and very much to the patient. Although we are a “behind the scenes” department... we know how much our work impacts the patient and healthcare's bottom line. What is hard to understand then, is why more clinical laboratory professionals are not involved in ASCLS? Do you want to see action? Do you want everyone else to know what you know? Do you want others to see it how you see it?**ASCLS is where it happens! ASCLS Voice, Value, Vision!**



The point of this article is to remind you that **you and your professional ideas are needed**. Not only do I need you, but I think you will find you need ASCLS. I want all clinical laboratorians to feel involved, to be equipped with a scope of knowledge that enables you to speak about your profession from not only a facility point of view, but from a global point of view, making others around you realize the vital and important role you play in healthcare. No one needs to feel lost in his or her profession. When talking about the issues or needs of your work environment, you will likely find a large group of others with the same issues or needs. I am continually amazed at how far ahead of the game we are here in South Dakota, and the Midwest, compared to states on either coast. But you sometimes have to take a step away to see the whole picture clearly. Having an opportunity get away from the work place, and “talk shop” with other laboratorians, is liberating and invigorating.(and you know... Laboratorians really are fun people when you get us out of the lab!).

Please contact me if you want to learn more about ASCLS - lori.murray@avera.org or call 605-694-2022.





**RECRUIT
A NEW
MEMBER!**



BE AN ASCLS STAR

Every clinical laboratorian deserves the professional benefits of **ASCLS!**

We invite each of you to share how much ASCLS membership and benefits means to you with at least one other laboratory professional.

Every member receives the benefits that you enjoy as an ASCLS member-

- CLS Journal (Prof I only)
- ASCLS Today
- Members-only discounts on publications
- Savings on meeting registrations
- Membership in state and regional organizations
- Current information about legislative/regulatory issues
- An **instant network** of laboratory professionals

Share the **ASCLS VOICE-VALUE-VISION** with your friends and colleagues! We all benefit when ASCLS grows! The more members we have in South Dakota, the stronger our professions voice is here at home. This stronger voice benefits our laboratories and each one of us.

New members can join on-line at www.ascls.org or paper applications can be printed from the same location.

Check out, www.ascls.org or www.ascls-sd.org, for tools and tips for member recruitment to help you in recruiting a new member.



REGION V DIRECTOR MESSAGE: Pride & Passion in ASCLS!

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS Region V Director

Pride and passion is very evident in ASCLS's Region V clinical laboratory professionals... **I am proud of our members... I am proud of each one of you!** This statement comes from the heart as I reflect on Chicago's National ASCLS meeting. Once again, recognition, awards, honors and leadership roles were given to the dedicated ASCLS members in Region V. To mention just a few... we were honored with Publications awards, Membership awards, Presidential awards, scholarships, and many of our members were either elected to key ASCLS positions or appointed to serve on essential committees at the national level. **HATS OFF TO REGION V!**

Each task undertaken for the good of our profession makes a difference for ASCLS and all laboratory professionals. The professional life of each ASCLS member has an immense and unique value which clinical laboratory professionals sometimes have a tendency to overlook. Now is the time to recognize this value so that we can choose to make that professional value even greater. Every day our lives are overflowing with possibilities. We can choose to expand those possibilities even more through dreaming and transforming those dreams into grand achievements that will set the stage for even greater opportunities for ASCLS, our region, our state, our members and our profession.

There are times when each of us feels we can give no more or find ourselves wondering "why do I care". There are times when we are frustrated with fellow clinical laboratorians who go to work every day and complain that they are "the victim", that they "get no respect" or feel "they are not recognized" but yet, they are not members of ASCLS and they do not give back to their chosen profession. It is during these times and encounters that we, as proud ASCLS professional members, must remember the words of Paul Landauer, "I'm a proud clinical laboratory professional and I'm reporting for professional duty". As true clinical laboratory professionals, we need to get busy and visualize what can be. Rather than wasting our time and effort on useless complaints, we must invest in and commit ourselves to making our profession better. It is our professional duty and responsibility to:

- Continue our professional membership in ASCLS
- Encourage our co-workers to become ASCLS members
- Invite lapsed members to become members again
- Be professional shining examples at work, at home and in the community
- Speak highly of our profession and ASCLS
- Encourage our students and young professionals
- Recognize and communicate the value of our profession
- Support our fellow ASCLS members
- Step forward and volunteer for or suggest activities that will help accomplish ASCLS goals

We are alive, able to think, to dream, to share, to plan, to act, to learn and adapt. to grow and to create our profession's future. Great professional



**ASCLS-SD Salutes
Our Newest
Members!**



Nevonne Stoker
Boyden IA

Nicolette Allard
Pierre SD

Shannon McGivern
Rapid City SD

Kim Bennett
Luverne MN

Malissa Tille
Sioux Falls SD

Miranda Medricky
Dante SD

Bonnie Brady
Sioux City IA

Amanda Adams
Ethan SD

Angie Petrik
Platte SD

Crystal Duvall
Sioux Falls SD

Yolanda Luikens
Menno SD

Matthew Lauterbach
Harlan IA

Karlene Gollnick
Webster SD

Christine Amundson
Watertown SD

Christel Jonker
Watertown SD

A 2006-07 strategic plan has been developed and approved by the YPC. Listed are five main areas of activity:

1. Increase communication between YPC national, regional and state representatives, and young professionals.
2. Strategize and begin fundraising efforts to offer First Year Professional (FYP) funding to attend national meetings.
3. Increase awareness of the YPC committee to encourage student members to transition into FYP member status.
4. Structure ASCLS committees to involve interested FYPs and YPs and to provide mentoring and leadership development programs to prepare them for leadership roles in the society and in the profession.
5. Increase awareness of profession and ASCLS to community and non-members.

Actions being worked on to increase communications include:

- evaluating the need for a specific webpage on ASCLS website that will be specifically designed for young professionals
- development of a young professional e-newsletter
- encouraging young professionals to write articles for ASCLS Today, regional publications and state newsletters
- distribute the “Beginners Guide to ASCLS” via web and email to all FYP members
- encourage state and regional FYP representative appointments
- develop mechanisms to stay in contact with young professionals in the nation

Other areas of recognition and professional activity for young professionals are:

- lunch and learn session at the annual 2007 meeting
- continued development and enhancement of the E-mentoring program
- creation of a national level young professional and mentoring award
- leadership development programs
- create public relations materials to promote clinical laboratory science to communities and non-ASCLS members
- evaluate the possibility of collaborating with Abbott Diagnostics and the new “Labs are Vital” website to promote the value of our profession and our professionals

Your ASCLS’s YPC is taking action and planning to make your professional future stronger and brighter. I would encourage all ASCLS-SD young professionals to get involved and be part of this professional movement.



ASCLS-SD PASSION: “Performing often ordinary tasks in extraordinary ways. Promoting ASCLS Voice~Value~Vision every minute, every hour, every day! Being proud of who you are, your chosen profession and ASCLS!”



**Professional
Perspectives from a
Student's Point of
View!**

By: Emily Tron, ASCLS
Reg V Student Forum Rep

Clinical laboratory science students need to be aware that ASCLS membership is imperative to connect with other people in our profession. I paid a nominal student membership fee and have since received three scholarships, made great contacts, traveled to Chicago, and am now a regional representative of a national organization.

By becoming an ASCLS member and staying a member, students can make contacts, refer to each other in confusing times, and seek sanity in knowing that others are just as stressed and under appreciated as we are! I find comfort in knowing that ASCLS is investing time, energy, and money in OUR future and OUR profession. We need to promote who we are and what we do and we can do that through ASCLS.

ASCLS and its professionals are here to help guide us through our long, and sometimes confusing, career path. ASCLS is here for us... let us be there for ASCLS!

If I could make a dream become reality, I would dream.... More recognition for clinical laboratory professionals so others would know who we are and what our true value is to health care.



“Take The Time... Let ASCLS Be Part Of Your Life”

By: Tanya Stuckey, ASCLS-SD YP Member-at-Large

In this day and age, it is so common for us to busy ourselves with a variety of commitments. I know with just finishing school, there is work to pay off those college loans, studying to pass certification exams, and then seeking continuous educational learning to assure professional success in health care today. And let us not forget kids, family, pets, or the many other commitments we make.

One of the commitments, in my professional life now includes being a member of your ASCLS-SD Board of Directors and with that comes the need to attend meetings. However, sitting in on the ASCLS-SD Board of Directors meeting held a couple weeks ago, I found myself feeling guilty. I felt guilty not only because I have not done enough myself for ASCLS and ASCLS-SD, but also because I have not spread the word and encouraged my fellow professionals to do so as well. My guilt really came from my excuse....that I am too busy.

When thinking about this guilt and my reason of being too busy, I also began to truly realize that ASCLS and ASCLS-SD are here to help me. To help my finances and thus pay off those loans, ASCLS provides discounts on annual meetings and continuing education. Not only do they provide the discounts and opportunities for continuing education that we need to professionally succeed, there are so many resources available through the Society that will help in the continuous learning experience such as magazines, websites, and journals. As far as the rest of our commitments, who would not benefit from a better profession? And, who would fight for the betterment of our profession if not for ASCLS?

Lastly, I am reminded of why I chose a career in healthcare in the first place. It was to help people. What professional organizations are out there that set goals that ultimately will advance my profession, offer me and my fellow Clinical Laboratory Professionals personal and professional growth opportunities? The answer comes down to...ASCLS! Therefore, I am going to make a conscious effort to fit ASCLS into my busy schedule so that I can give back to my profession. I strongly encourage you to do so as well.

“Herbal Medicine + National Convention = FUN!”

By: Shirley Heber, ASCLS-SD Sioux Falls SD

Let's see, how can I describe my first national meeting...WOW! After attending Legislative Days in Washington DC in March, I was excited to continue on the journey of continuing education and personal growth by attending the ASCLS National Convention in Chicago in July. One of the additional perks of attending this meeting was visiting all the wonderful booths and exhibits at the ASCLS/AACC Clinical Expo. The wealth of



More On Herbalism:

Consumers are arming themselves with St. John's Wort, ginseng, Echinacea and many other herbal remedies, thus signaling a shift from the conventional to a more holistic, self-care approach to health.

According to a 2000 study, approximately 158 million consumers use diet supplements, spending approximately \$5 billion per year on them. Of these, an estimated 22.8 million consumers take herbal remedies instead of prescription drugs and 19.6 million use the two simultaneously.

Herbal remedies are not subject to the same FDA testing as other drugs, side effects and drug interactions are largely unknown. Frequently occurring interactions have, been documented in studies.



information and number of booths was totally overwhelming. Visions of new instruments and software packages danced before me, as well as facts, figures, names and faces from the many wonderful exhibits and people I was privileged to see.

The ASCLS workshops covered many interesting topics, from management, hot industry topics, case studies, technology, and more. One of the workshops that I found especially interesting was on *herbal medicine* and the effects that these over-the-counter remedies have on common laboratory tests.



Did you know that.....

- **Kava Kava**..... is the most dangerous herbal medicine; this supplement, used as an anti-depressant, causes toxic liver damage which is irreversible.
- **Chapparral**, another herbal supplement, can cause false positive hepatitis tests.
- **Chromium**, which is used by body-builders, stimulates hypoglycemia by increasing insulin production.
- **Garlic** can increase prothrombin time results. Individuals taking coumadin may see increased bleeding if garlic is consumed in large quantities.
- **Gingko biloba**, an herbal supplement used for improving memory, also increases prothrombin and activated partial thromboplastin times, and should not be used by patients on coumadin therapy.
- **Licorice** can elevate blood pressure and may cause hypokalemia.
- **St. John's Wort**, long used for depression, can cause interference with how some medications are metabolized. It is contra-indicated in transplant patients, as it may cause organ rejection. Effects are reversible if caught in time. It may also interfere with the metabolism of the following drugs, thus causing erratic laboratory results:

Digoxin
Theophylline
Tacrolimus
Cyclosporine
HIV protocol medications
Warfarin
Methadone
Amitryptilline
Oral contraception

While the use of herbal supplements may and often does produce the desired effect, it is helpful to be aware that it also may affect the metabolism of certain medications, thus causing issues with laboratory testing. This knowledge may help solve the puzzles sometimes caused by erratic or unusual laboratory results on some patients.

In closing, I would encourage all ASCLS-SD members to attend regional, state, or national ASCLS meetings every chance they have. The knowledge gained and the fun of networking with other laboratory and medical professionals is immeasurable!

Alzheimer's Disease In Brief....

Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is an irreversible form of dementia characterized by memory loss, a progressive decline in intellectual ability, deteriorating language and speech skills, and by personality and behavioral changes that eventually interfere with daily living. Currently, Alzheimer's Disease has been estimated to affect as many as 4 million older Americans.

There are no laboratory tests available that will positively diagnose AD. Currently, the only definite diagnosis of AD is microscopic examination of a section of the patient's brain tissue after death. Pathologists look for senile plaques and neurofibrillary tangles characteristic of AD. Since plaque and tangle formation is also seen in normal aging, the sample must be compared to a control sample (normal, non-AD brain tissue) from a person the same age as the patient.

Doctors can make a reasonably accurate clinical diagnosis of AD using a variety of tests and procedures to rule out other causes for dementia. When a patient presents with symptoms of dementia, the doctor will evaluate his or her personal and family history (preferably of several generations); perform a physical exam; determine the age of onset, and give the

STUDENT MEMBER SHARING: "Experiencing ASCLS For The First Time... But Not The Last Time"

By: Malissa Tille, ASCLS-SD Student Member, Junior Biology Major, Univ of SF

Growing up around science and microbiology has always seemed normal for me as the daughter of a science professor and laboratory professional. But in reality, I guess I never quite thought my scientific mom was truly "normal". Do not get me wrong, my mom, Dr. Patricia Tille MT(ASCP) is truly an outstanding scientist, mentor, research advisor, academic advisor, professor and yes even my mom. What was truly intriguing to me was that when I arrived at ASCLS in Chicago, I immediately found that she was not alone.

ASCLS is filled with interesting and fun individuals from all over the United States. Each one brings a wealth of information and experiences to the meeting. As a college student, I was able to interact with many different individuals gain insight, ideas and thoughts for my future goals and career. What an experience to have? There has been no other time during my college career where I had so many diverse and outstanding professionals willing to share and describe their experiences and knowledge openly with a young student. Actually, most of the time I had to slow them down or try and divert their attention. Every attendee was full of advice, wonders and thoughts on what I should do, where I should go and how I should get there.

Not only did I enjoy the opportunity to talk to such a knowledgeable and diverse group of professionals, but also was able to view the newest and latest technology of clinical laboratory and research instrumentation at the ASCLS-AACC Exhibit. What a huge display of state of the art technology and new test methods that are on the forefront of modern medicine. Seeing the hundreds of companies displayed through out the exhibit hall simply brings to light all the opportunities that are available today for students within the clinical laboratory science field. Granted I would have to say I have a slightly altered perspective as a result of growing up and streaking plates when I was 10 years old, just for fun!

As a student, at either a University or within a clinical laboratory science hospital program, you may not see the true side of the individuals who have become your instructors and your mentors. To truly envision what laboratory science and other related careers have to offer, if you have the opportunity, get involved, go to a meeting and venture into their world. They are a gifted group of professionals and ready to share their knowledge, their friendship and of course their advice. Guaranteed, I have not always had the option, you know how parents can be... but it will be good for you! But this is one time, where I was able to see beyond the "parent" and into the professional world of clinical laboratory science. And oh yes, you can bet, it is already on my agenda for next year!

☞ The brightest blazes are commonly kindled by an unexpected spark. Let ASCLS be the professional spark to take you to new heights in your professional journey. Be involved, be committed, be a champion for ASCLS and your profession! ☞

Alzheimer's (cont.)

patient neuro-psychological tests to measure his or her memory, language skills, and other cognitive functions. The doctor may use a range of traditional laboratory tests to rule out deficiencies and other diseases and conditions that could be affecting the patient's memory. They will also look for overmedication and may use imaging tools, such as computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans, to look for evidence of trauma, tumors, and stroke that could be causing dementia and to look for brain atrophy (shrinkage, usually only seen later in the Alzheimer's Disease progression). If the doctor suspects AD, they may order common laboratory tests to help differentiate a diagnosis. Less common tests and genetic testing may also be used to check for genetic risk factors.

Common lab tests ordered to rule out AD vs. other more common causes of dementia include:

- Vitamin B12
- Free T4, TSH
- CBC
- Electrolytes
- HIV
- Sed Rate
- RPR
- Drug Screen

Reference: Lab Tests Online
www.labtestsonline.org

"Cystic Fibrosis and Microbial Infections"

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disorder found predominantly in persons of European ancestry. The gene affected is called the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator gene (CFTR). The CFTR gene product regulates and facilitates the transport of electrolytes across cell membranes. Cystic fibrosis patients have a high concentration of salt in their sweat. They have difficulty in clearing foreign particles from the airways and suffer from respiratory infections. Severe chronic lung infections frequently result in lung failure and are a primary cause of early mortality associated with cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis is diagnosed by clinical symptoms and by a sweat test. The diagnosis can be confirmed by genetic analysis. A negative genetic screen does not rule out cystic fibrosis. A direct measurement of CFTR function can be performed to confirm the diagnosis.

A number of microbial species have been linked to respiratory infections that are common in cystic fibrosis patients. Of these, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Burkholderia cepacia* complex and *Staphylococcus aureus* are of primary importance. *P. aeruginosa* plays a major role in lung infections of cystic fibrosis patients. Original infecting strains are generally susceptible to antibiotics and can be eradicated with aggressive treatment. As the infection becomes chronic, *P. aeruginosa* strains convert to "mucoidy". These mucoid strains are resistant to most antibiotics and grow as biofilms in the airways of cystic fibrosis patients. These strains cannot be eradicated by the most aggressive antibacterial therapy. *S. aureus* is frequently found in healthy persons in the anterior nares and can be recovered from approximately 50% of cystic fibrosis patients. *B. cepacia* complex organisms are a heterogeneous group of bacteria widely distributed in the environment. These organisms are important pathogens because of their ability to invade the airway epithelium causing severe lung disease accompanied by bacteremia and a high mortality rate. This condition is called "the cepacia syndrome." The bacteria can be transmitted person-to-person and frequently exhibit multidrug resistance. Strict infection control is required for prevention.

The therapeutic approach to cystic fibrosis is to clear the purulent secretions from the airways. This can be achieved by physical methods, by using DNase to decrease the viscosity of respiratory secretions, or by antimicrobial therapy directed at the infecting pathogen. Multidrug resistance of some of the pathogens presents a major obstacle to successful antimicrobial therapy.

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To learn more about LATI's MLT/CLT program go to <http://www.lakeareatech.edu/programs/mltonline/index.html>

or check out MLT's elearning exploration site to discover the different forms of technology available to our students at

<http://online.lakeareatech.edu/mltonline>

To enter the site, click on the words "elearning trial" and then choose the button for "log in as guest".



**Congratulations To....
Emily Tron**



**Our New ASCLS
Region V Student Forum
Representative!**

Emily received her Bachelors in Biology and Classical Studies from Concordia College in Moorehead MN. She then went on to obtain her Masters in Microbiology from NDSU... and then decided to enter the CLS program and is currently in her clinical rotation at Meritcare in Fargo ND.

Prior to Emily being appointed to this Region V position she was asked for her professional thoughts on a couple of areas.... Her responses were worth professional gold! Refer to page 7.... To make your professional day.



ASCLS-SD PROUDLY SPOTLIGHTS....

Lake Area Technical Institute's, Clinical Laboratory Technician (Medical Laboratory Technician) Program – Watertown SD

The CLT program at Lake Area Tech is rolling with change and thriving! Alison Albertson, MS, MT(ASCP) and Mona Gleysteen, MS, CLS(NCA) began their careers with traditional classroom instruction but have been utilizing technological advances to deliver courses via computer network/internet for over a year. This fall courses became available online for students off campus. Assignments, videos, demonstrations, lectures, and tests can all be placed on a managed classroom site which LATI calls eLearning. Students can listen to the lectures, view the videos or demonstrations, submit the assignments, or take tests in the "comfort of their own homes". The online students will come to the campus for two or three different sessions of laboratory experience per semester. It is possible that the student would be ready for a one semester clinical in 2½ years if he/she takes the recommended courses each semester and also takes the recommended general courses on campus at LATI or transfers the general courses to LATI. Following the one semester clinical, the student will graduate and be eligible to take a national certification test.

This online option has been designed to fill the needs of individuals working full time who want to continue working while taking the MLT program. Four students enrolled this fall, and three of them are already working in some capacity in a laboratory but want to become certified in order to be able to perform all the laboratory's testing. The program has affiliation agreements (SDSU, UND and Mt. Marty College) in place for MLT graduates to move toward a CLS/MT degree or four year degree.

In the area of instruction, the program is looked upon as one of the innovators in the use of technology at Lake Area Tech. The program's on-line clinical evaluations and construction of streaming video demonstration or narrated powerpoint lectures, the microscope tutorial (developed by Alison), and the Educue personal response system are examples of technology used to educate students.

The program accepts new students in August and January. A typical class size is 15 students. At present, there are 10 returning students, 14 new students, and 4 students in clinical training. ***Congratulations to LATI!***

