



VOLUSION...ASCLS SD

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

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ASCLS /CLMA Fall Meeting - 1
- New Logos... New Look - 1
- ASCLS-SD Leadership Contact Information - 2
- 2008 Legislative Days 2-3
- ASCLS Membership Has Benefits - 4-5
- Mark Your Calendar Events - 5
- Outgoing President's Thank You - 5-6
- Hot Sites on the Web - 6
- New President's Message: Out with the Old, In with the New - 6-7
- New Members Welcome - 7
- Region V Director Article: Pump It Up - 7-8
- ASCLS-SD 2008 Awards & Recognition - 8
- SDSU CLS Hospital-Based Program - 8-9
- Microbiology SA: Fun in the Sun - 9
- Spring Meeting Report - 9-10
- Government Affairs Update: Competitive Bidding - 11
- ASCLS-SD Membership Spotlight - 11

VOLUSION...ASCLS-SD is published quarterly and is made available to all ASCLS SD members in electronic format. The current issue and past issues will also be available for on-line viewing on the Society's web page: www.ascls-sd.org The co-editors reserve the right to edit content and length of material to meet publication specifications.

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

Save this Date in 2008!



ASCLS-SD/CLMA Fall Meeting
October 6-8, 2008
Cedar Shore Resort
Chamberlain/Oacoma

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out!

“REVITALIZE ON THE RIVER – TO REJUVENATE YOUR SPIRIT”

Join us for three days on the Missouri River at the beautiful Cedar Shore Resort. Event will be packed with continuing education, networking, social activities & fun!

For questions: Andrea Schaub, Meeting Chair rash@midstatesd.net

Lori Murray, ASCLS-SD President lori.murray@avera.org

Here's Just a Few of The Exciting Educational Sessions Planned!

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Licensure and Professional Development | Vitamin D |
| Molecular Diagnostics | Ascaris Case Study |
| It's Your Life, It's Your Choice | Leadership Forum |
| Flow Cytometry | CLSI |
| What's New from Microscan | Customer Service & Communication |
| Inspection Expectations – CLIA | Newborn Screening Program |
| Hepatology | National CLS Hot Topic |
| Pandemic Readiness | Thrombotic Disorders |
| Immune Disorders | Hematology Topics |
| TRALI | Value of the Laboratory |
| Fertility | Coagulation Overview |

Complete registration information will be sent out in a few weeks.

EXCITING & NEW!

Your ASCLS-SD Board of Directors is proud to announce... we have new logos for our society! And in the very near future, our web page will also have a new look! The new logos and designs were developed to convey the true connection and relationship our state constituent society is to National ASCLS. Special recognition and thanks goes to Michael Woolheater, ASCLS-SD 2008-09 New Professional Member-at-Large. Michael's creativity and talent are to be commended! A couple examples of our new logos.....





**ASCLS SD 2008-09
Leadership &
Contact Information:**

President:

Michael Andersen
(P) 605-660-2105
andersen_mike@hotmail.com

1st Vice President:

Susan Lopez
(P) 605-697-9530
susan.lopez@averabrookings.org

2nd Vice President:

Deb Pravecek
(P) 605-692-7653
Deborah.pravecek@sdstate.edu

Secretary/Treasurer:

Shirley Heber
(P) 605-338-6835
sheber@sio.midco.net

Past-President:

Lori Murray
(P) 605-594-2022
lori.murray@avera.org

Board-Members-At-Large:

Ruth McFarland
(P) 605-997-3980
ruth.mcfarland@mckennan.org

Kelly Thomas
(P) 605-716-0915
kelly.thomas@ihs.gov

Nancy Schweitzer
(P) 605-845-7354
nancy_schweitzer@hotmail.com

NP Member-at-Large:

Michael Woolheater
Michael.woolheater@mckennan.org

Membership Development:

Susan Lopez
susan.lopez@averabrookings.org

Peggy Jennings
pmjenn@hotmail.com

Publications Committee:

Shirley Heber
sheber@sio.midco.net

Lezlee Koch
lezleek@sio.midco.net



LEGISLATIVE DAYS 2008 – A New Professional’s View

By: Michael Woolheater, New Professional Member-At-Large, ASCLS-SD

I recently had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. for the national legislative symposium. For me, it was a real eye-opening experience. I didn’t realize how many issues face our profession and how hard ASCLS works to correct them. A few examples of the issues discussed at the legislative symposium include the infamous competitive bidding demonstration project, fee schedule modernization, and laboratory personnel shortages.

What can I say about competitive bidding that hasn’t already been said? It is the consensus that competitive bidding is detrimental to clinical laboratories across the country. In South Dakota, we can understand what kind of impact it would have, but we don’t have to panic like the hard-working people in San Diego. This year and the next three years will be a battle for them over what they can and can’t charge their patients and clients.



ASCLS is putting a huge amount of work into stopping competitive bidding. Meeting with politicians and their health-care advisors was a big part of the legislative symposium. Currently, there are two bills alive and well in Congress. One bill created to stop the competitive bidding demonstration, the other to stop competitive bidding and its future plans. The objective of having congressional visits was to inform our state legislators of ASCLS’s views of competitive bidding and inform them of the negative impacts it will have on clinical laboratories. The approach with state representatives was direct; here is the information on competitive bidding, here are the problems it poses, this is what we are asking for your help with, here are the bills we ask you to support, and here are our proposed solutions. Ultimately the congressional visits will lead to legislator support if we can help them understand our prejudices against competitive bidding.

Another thing I feel compelled to mention, as it was a hot topic at the legislative symposium, is the laboratory personnel shortage. The statistics are quite shocking. Our profession needs 15,000 new practitioners per year but education programs graduate about 5,000 a year. Also, it was mentioned, that at least 40 percent of the laboratory workforce is within ten years of retirement. Laboratory personnel shortage is a big problem that will only get bigger. Again, we don’t feel the squeeze as much as other states do but this is no reason to not look at ways to help.

How do you correct a high variable problem such as laboratory personnel shortage? Professional societies, salary incongruence, federal government support (funding of title VII), state licensure, aggressive communication, and public awareness. Professional societies are what drive these solutions by getting the ideas out there, getting people involved in a resolution, and enhancing our field.

ATTENTION ASCLS-SD MEMBERS!

Have you visited your
society's Web Page
lately?

www.ascls-sd.org

Current Pages:

- ➔ Our Purpose
- ➔ Membership & Benefits
- ➔ Student 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



REGION V WEB PAGE!

Our ASCLS-SD web site is also the host society for our ASCLS Region V web page. Check out the Region V information:

- ➔ Region V Leadership & Contact Info
- ➔ Events calendar
- ➔ Info on Regional actions

You don't realize how important ASCLS is until you see how hard the society, and the grassroots members behind it, work to improve the life and career of laboratory professionals right here in SD and in the nation.



ASCLS Leadership Academy and Legislative Symposium 2008

By: Susan Lopez, ASCLS-SD 1st Vice President

Due to my involvement in the Leadership Academy, I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend this year's Legislative Symposium in Washington, D.C.

Saturday was all Leadership Academy; the agenda was Team Building Skills. There was brain storming sessions, role playing and lecture all geared toward ASCLS and how to use the skills in our roles as ASCLS members and leaders.

Sunday members of the Leadership Academy attended the ASCLS Interim Board of Directors meeting where we observed the board in action.

Monday the Legislative Symposium began and the program objectives included:

- Positions on competitive bidding, personnel shortage and the Medicare Laboratory Fee Schedule
- Effect of the 2008 budget on laboratory reimbursement
- How to communicate with members of Congress and their staff effectively
- How to present the concerns of the laboratory community to the members of Congress

Tuesday was the trip to Capital Hill where along with other South Dakota delegates we spoke with Senators and Representative of South Dakota and/or their staff members. Walking to and visiting at Capital Hill was educational. As each of our members of congress has an office in a different building, we were able to observe the architectural structure of these historic sites.

Senator John Thune: We met with his legislative assistant; at this time the Senator has no plans to sign on to the repeal of competitive bidding. He wants medicare recipients to have lower health costs and thinks because the Durable Medical Equipment competitive bidding worked, so will it work for the laboratory.

Representative Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin: There was a positive response from her legislative director about Title VII and the upcoming request for lab professionals to be allowed to fix the Medicare fee schedule. She has already signed onto the repeal of competitive bidding.

Senator Tim Johnson: We were lucky to be able to visit with the Senator as he had not yet left the city for the recess. He has already signed onto the repeal and he too had a positive response to the other two issues that we brought to him

There are so many issues that the members of congress must review, I don't know how decisions can be made. But it was very evident that unless our needs are voiced (and loudly) they will be lost.



**RECRUIT
A NEW
MEMBER!**



BE AN ASCLS STAR

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

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 **ASCLS's 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 profession's 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.



ASCLS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Membership Has its Benefits!

By: Deb Pravecek, ASCLS-SD 2nd Vice President

Membership has its benefits...Do you remember that advertising slogan used by a popular credit card company? Do we really understand and appreciate the benefits we obtain from our membership in ASCLS and ASCLS-SD? I recently had the chance to contemplate exactly why membership in a professional society such as ours is so important. Far too often, we are confronted with laboratory personnel who are overworked and consequently, disillusioned with the laboratory field. Many of these laboratory professionals question the value of professional associations and doubt the importance of membership in these professional societies.

I recently took a group of students to a professional meeting because I thought that it would be very beneficial for them to hear about some of the issues affecting the laboratory today. I was very surprised when my students told me that they found the whole meeting very depressing. So, we spent a good portion of the next class period discussing the issues that face the clinical laboratory. I did have to admit to the students that our profession has its problems. But, then again, aren't there problems in most professions?

We started our discussion about what it means to be a professional. One common characteristic of all professions is that they have professional bodies organized by their members. The purpose of these professional organizations is to enhance the status of their members. How does ASCLS and ASCLS-SD do that for us? We often talk about our grassroots advocacy, but do most of our members actually realize how much we provide for their benefit. A few examples came out of my discussion with the students. We discussed the Practice Levels and Educational Needs White Paper. Many of my students are extremely excited over the possibility of the DCLS degree, but they had not considered the impact that the practice levels may have on rural South Dakota. The white paper did initiate a discussion and awareness of personnel issues on our car ride home. And isn't one of the purposes of a professional society to educate our members about an issue relevant to our field?

This past year we sent several students and ASCLS-SD members to Legislative Days in Washington D.C. Part of Legislative Days is discussion on Capitol Hill with our senators and representatives, helping educate law makers on the issues affecting the laboratory. What a fantastic benefit for ASCLS-SD members!!! Another example of how ASCLS has fought for our constituency is the competitive bidding demonstration project by CMS. ASCLS has fought long and hard in opposition to competitive bidding. I know of laboratory supervisors and directors who were unaware of the



*Mark Your
Calendar ~
Upcoming
Events*



2008 ASCLS Annual Meeting
July 29-August 2
Washington, DC
Capital Hilton
Clinical Laboratory Expo
July 29-31, 2008
Washington
Convention Center

ASCLS-SD/CLMA
Fall Meeting
October 6-8, 2008
Cedar Shore Resort
Chamberlain/Oacoma, SD



Lori Murray!
Your enthusiasm,
leadership, and
professional spirit has
been a gift to ASCLS!
Know that you have
touched the lives of
many!

competitive bidding project and the impact on their laboratories until ASCLS educated them. Again, what would happen to our profession without the advocacy of ASCLS.

Many enter the field with rose colored glasses and become disillusioned. Let's give these burned out laboratorians a professional renewal by showing them just how exciting this profession is through our actions. We can become reenergized ourselves by becoming involved. I have heard several people who come back from Legislative Days and/or a national ASCLS meeting and say it was a professional life-changing event. **BECOME INVOLVED – YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF AND YOUR PROFESSION NEEDS YOU.**



OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Thank You For Two Great Years!

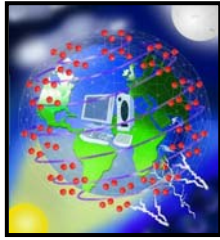
By: Lori Murray, ASCLS-SD President 2006-08

I look back very fondly and with gratitude on the 2 years that I have been allowed to serve as the President of ASCLS-South Dakota. I am grateful for the lessons I have learned, the opportunities I have had, the amazing friends I have made within South Dakota and across the United States. Most of all, I am honored to know that South Dakota has such determined and dedicated professionals serving the citizens of our State.

There are times I wondered if our society was making progress. I have wondered if just holding our ground is good enough. Then I began to recognize that the actions of the society have a direct relationship to how we see actions and reactions happening in the work environment. Things ebb and flow in our profession, and as a whole, we have seen some major obstacles over the years. We deal with the Medicare fee schedule and reimbursement challenges, competitive bidding, school closings, workforce shortages, lack of professional recognition, and the increasing need for staffing as baby boomers retire. Yet the fascinating thing about this group of people is the resilience and tenacity to keep on going. We don't give up! That is part of the nature of the laboratorian, the problem-solver. We keep driving for answers.

I know I will continue to be involved in ASCLS. The fire has been lit and the passion is there. My wish is for all of you to find that as well. It has been exciting to see new members getting so involved or current members increasing their involvement. Being involved is more than planning and educational events. It is about taking control of your own destiny and making things happen for you and your coworkers, your patients, and your families. You do make a difference in every large or small contribution you make and that contribution is recognized and needed.

I want to thank all the wonderful people who have been there for me that last two years. Many, many thanks to those who have assisted and mentored me



Hot Sites on the Web....

Westgard QC

Tools, technology, and training for clinical laboratorians on QC & quality

www.westgard.com

Microbes.Info

The Microbiology information portal. Feature articles, image den, FAQs, disease watches.

www.microbes.info



Need Some Personal Motivation After a Chaotic Day?

Inspirational Flash Movies

“Leaving behind heartprints”

www.inspiringthots.net

Daily Blessings

Daily doses of inspiration and humor for all faiths.

www.daily-blessings.com

Simple Truths

Millions of people around the world are being uplifted and inspired by the movies on this website.

www.simpletruths.com

with my many questions, those who have worked on projects and meetings, written articles, or just offered suggestions. *Nothing is possible without the efforts of many.* A special thank you is extended to the ASCLS-SD Board for their willingness, knowledge, and insight. It has been a great pleasure getting to know you and to serve with you.

I look forward to the future of our profession and the challenges we face. Michael Andersen will be stepping into the role of President for ASCLS-SD on August 1st. I am so excited about the enthusiasm and new perspective this man brings to our organization. I know that his leadership will be a breath of fresh air to our society.



NEW PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: Out with the Old, in with the New...

By: Mike Andersen, ASCLS-SD President 2008-2009

Being relatively new to this profession, I’m not sure that I bring experience to the presidential position on the board of ASCLS. The one thing I do know is that I will bring a new professionals perspective to the board of directors. I want to thank Lori Murray (outgoing president) for being especially helpful the past two years to me and hopefully I can follow somewhat in her footsteps.

I want everyone to know a little about my family and me before I jump into my plans for ASCLS this year. I grew up near Freeman, South Dakota, on a farm. I attended college at Mount Marty, received my BA in Biology and Chemistry, and completed my medical technology training at Sioux Valley Hospital in 2005. I continue to farm near Menno with my wife Kathy whom I met though ASCLS in 2005. We are expecting a child this fall.. I work at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, while Kathy is the Laboratory manager at Landemann-Jungmann Memorial Hospital in Scotland. I have been a member of ASCLS since 2004 when I joined as a student member, and have been involved with ASCLS from that point on.

My plans as president of ASCLS-SD are pretty much the same as presidents past, but never the less very important. First, I plan on working with the board on membership retention. Membership retention is a must for our society to stay healthy and to promote our profession. We have a good base of consistent members in our state and I hope to keep it that way. Secondly, we will work on membership recruitment. Our society has so much to offer in ways unknown to non-members, and it will be our goal to let everyone know what ASCLS can bring to this profession. I also want to work with leadership development. I would like to have a state member involved in the National ASCLS Leadership Academy. This is a national program specifically developed to bring new leadership into our profession. The last thing I will mention is student involvement. We need our students to be involved. I want their Voice to be heard so that we know what is important to new professionals.



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

Mike King
Sioux Falls

Nichole Taylor
Rapid City

Cheryl Wildermuth
Dell Rapids

Christine Magee
Canistota

Trevor Holleman
Sioux Falls

Joseph Thum
Sioux Falls

David Krause
Sioux Falls

LeAnn Richardson
Sioux Falls

*"Wishing you all a
wondrous professional
journey in ASCLS!"*

**As Clinical Laboratory
Science Professionals –
You Are Health Care
Shining Stars!**



I hope this year will be exciting and wonderful as we plan for our excellent fall state ASCLS meeting. Please help by being involved and asking questions of anyone on the state Board of Directors. We are all here to help you.



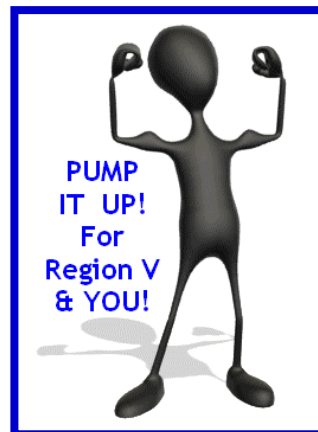
REGION V DIRECTOR SHARING: Pump It Up... Key To Building Momentum & Professional Achievement

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS Region V Director

As humans we can “pump gas”, “pump iron”, and “pump water”. These may not seem very exciting but the aspect of “pumping it up” is. As clinical laboratory science professionals, we have the ability to “Pump It Up” for ourselves, other laboratorians, ASCLS, and our profession. Now how **FANTASTIC** is that!

At the heart of who we are and what we are trying to accomplish lies the question, “What is the key to building momentum, achieving goals and engaging every one around us to “get on the professional band wagon”? The answer lies not so much in what we do, but in how we do it. If we begin utilizing the 3 E’s of success... **ENTHUSIASM, EXCITEMENT, and ENERGY** in everything we do, we have the ability to turn less than desirable events and even our ordinary every day occurrences into **EXTRAORDINARY** minutes, days, weeks and years!

It’s time for an “attitude check”! Tomorrow while you are at work, look around, honestly evaluate yourself and observe your co-workers. Is everyone energetically performing their professional tasks with enthusiasm? Is there excitement? Does everyone have a smile on their face? Are all talks about your profession positive? Are individuals stepping forward and volunteering for challenging projects? Is everyone accepting changes that need to be made in a positive manner? Also, if you are currently a member of your ASCLS State Society Board of Directors or serve in a leader position, at your next meeting, look around the table and honestly assess the atmosphere and the discussions. Are new ideas being brainstormed? Can you feel positive energy in the room? Is strategic planning being discussed? Are new members being recruited and mentored? Are new ways to get members involved being planned? Are your board or committee members fired up?



Using the following “professional glass” scale:

- ⇒ “empty glass” – apathetic, always complaining about their position or the profession, expects others to provide career advancement and enhancement for them
- ⇒ “half empty glass” – positive only if things go their way, not happy with the profession, feels the profession and their employer owes them, thinks professional involvement is not needed
- ⇒ “half full glass” – positive at work but not about the profession, thinks professional involvement is needed but thinks someone else should provide for them



**ASCLS-SD Salutes
this year's State,
Regional and
National Award
Winners!**



**Omicron Sigma
Awards**

State

**Ardith Petersen
Andrea Schaub
Bernie Reddy
Brendon Sato
Kelly Thomas
Michael Woolheater
Nancy Schweitzer
Ruth McFarland**

Regional

**Lori Murray
Michael Andersen
Deb Pravecek
Tamara Svatos
Warren Erickson**

National

**Lezlee Koch
Mona Gleysteen
Susan Lopez
Shirley Heber**

**Keys to the Future
Awards**

**Andrea Schaub
Michael Woolheater**

**ASCLS-SD
Member of the Year**

Bernie Reddy

**Congratulations
&
Thank you!**

- ⇒ “full and overflowing glass” – positive and professionally turned on, gives back to the profession, always willing to take on challenges, full of positive ideas and willing to work on areas to improve the profession or laboratory services

How do you grade the following?

- ⇒ Yourself
- ⇒ Your co-workers
- ⇒ Other clinical laboratory professionals in your community, state, region
- ⇒ State society leaders

If you graded anything other than “full and overflowing”, what a wonderful opportunity lies before you through **“Pumping It Up with Enthusiasm, Excitement & Energy”**. Enthusiasm is a skill that can actually be created simply by acting more enthusiastic! Smiling, sharing your knowledge and talents, moving around more, reaching out to engage others, having more expressive body language, laughing (at the right moments...of course!), having fun and communicating with excitement are all acts of enthusiasm. By simply acting more enthusiastic, you will begin to feel the excitement and energy building inside you which will lead to “infecting others and others”! As the enthusiasm and energy builds, so will the momentum, the accomplishments and the professional strength of the individual or group. Others around you and non-ASCLS members... will want to catch the “Triple E” bug and they will want to be part of that fantastic organization known as ASCLS! Right here... Right now... be enthused, excited and energized over who you are, what ASCLS does for its members and the fantastic value you bring healthcare! And as they say... the rest is history!!!



**SDSU Clinical Laboratory Science University Based
Program**

By: Deb Pravecek, ASCLS-SD 2nd Vice President
SDSU Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Coordinator of Clinical and Laboratory Sciences

South Dakota State University has received permission from the Board of Regents to seek NAACLS accreditation for its Clinical Laboratory Science program. This is a great milestone for clinical laboratory science (CLS) education in South Dakota and the region and will help address the shortage of laboratory professionals.

As laboratory professionals, we are all acutely aware of the impending retirement of the baby-boomer generation and the impact this will have on the health-care industry, including clinical laboratories. This shortage will increase the demand for clinical laboratory services when there is a growing shortage of clinical laboratory scientists. This situation has the potential to be disastrous to hospitals in South Dakota, particularly those in rural areas.

Although hospital programs produce high quality, medical technologists, this model does not allow us to significantly increase the number of CLS

**SCIENTIFIC
ASSEMBLY
MICROBIOLOGY:**

**Are we ready for some
“Fun in the Sun”, or
will we fall “Victim” to
the outdoor fun?**

By: Ardith Petersen, Avera
St. Luke’s Hospital

Yea--- It’s finally summer, I think. No snow has been reported in the state for at least a month! So now it is time to have “Fun in the Sun”... grilling, swimming, picnics, hiking, camping, boating, fishing, gardening, etc. But along with the fun comes the summertime diseases and/or infections that are associated with the warmer weather; which may be Bacterial, Parasitic, and Viral in nature.

Following is a list of the diseases and/or infections from A to Z that may “cramp” our summertime fun.

A = Anthrax, Ascariasis, Arthropod-Borne Viral Disease (Encephalitis),

B= Babesiosis, Bee Stings, Botulism

C= Campylobacteriosis and Cryptosporidiosis

D= Diarrheal Disease, Diarrhea caused by E.coli

E= Ehrlichiosis, EHEC-Shiga-toxin producing (E.coli, includes E.coli 0157:H7)

F= Fire Ants, Foodborne Intoxications

G= Giardiasis

H= Hantaviral Disease, Hepatitis (Viral), Hornets

students, simply because there are not enough accredited internship sites available. SDSU and the Avera Health Care System have spent many hours discussing possible solutions to this problem. As a result of these discussions, SDSU plans to seek accreditation for its CLS program and switch from a hospital-based program to a university-based program. Our goal is to submit a preliminary report to NAACLS by mid-summer 2008 and obtain approval from NAACLS to move forward with our plan. After approval, we would begin admitting students to the program and graduate the first group of students in 2010. This program change will be advantageous to the laboratory profession and to rural South Dakota. One of the chief advantages will be the ability to recruit students more actively and aggressively.

Television shows, like CSI and other popular forensic pathology dramas, have created a growing awareness of and interest in the clinical laboratory. However, growing interest in laboratory careers does little to alleviate the workforce shortage if there are no schools to provide training.

With our new cooperative program, SDSU will supply all of the required didactic instruction and the Avera system will supply the necessary technical experience. Our goal is to ultimately graduate 36 students yearly. While this may seem like a lofty goal, the ability to use almost any clinical laboratory in the state to train students suggests that it is realistic. Without the cooperative effort between Avera and SDSU, this project could not be successful.

This new university-based program also has the ability to develop a program-to-program, articulation agreement between vocational institutions and SDSU. If such articulation agreements develop, MLT/CLTs could more easily obtain an CLS/MT degree.

We are very excited for this new program to begin and extremely thankful for the team of professionals at Avera Laboratories who are so willing to work with us. This is a powerful example of what can be accomplished when we work together for the educational and economic growth of the entire region.



Spring Meeting ASCLS-SD 2008- Yankton SD

By: Michele Friesen, Avera Sacred Heart

This year’s Spring meeting was held in Yankton, SD on April 18. Approximately 30 attendees from SD, NE and IA supported us.

Our first speaker was Teri Winings, MT (ASCP) an inspector for COLA accrediting agency. The objective was to identify new and revised 2007 criteria for Quality Laboratory Performance. Winings discussed the pathway of laboratory workflow- what is included in the pre-analytic, analytic and post-analytic phases of laboratory processing. As of June 2007, there were

I= Insect Borne Disease
J= Jiggers (chiggers)
K= Keratitis, Conjunctivitis
L= Lyme's Disease
M= Malaria, Mosquito-Borne Diseases
N= Naegleriasis and Acanthamebiasis
O= ORF Virus Disease
P= Psittacosis, Plague
Q= Q Fever
R= Rabies, Relapsing Fever, Rickettsioses (Tick-Borne), Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
S= Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Staphylococcal Disease, Streptococcal Disease, Snake Bites
T= Tetanus, Ticks, Toxicariasis, Trichinosis, Tularemia, Typhoid
U= "Unexplained" Illnesses of Deaths
V= Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (Hantavirus)
W= Wasp's, Waterborne Outbreaks, West Nile Virus
X= Xanax (To put the "Fun" in "Summer Fun")
Y= Yellow Jackets
Z= Zoonotic Infections

Do not become a "victim" to any of these Diseases or Infections. When it comes to summertime activities, enjoy the outdoors, but also be aware of preventive measures that make sure you and your family are safe from these harmful diseases.

I wish everyone a safe and fun summer. Enjoy!

75 new or revised COLA criteria updated in a new format using evaluation groupings.

Brenda Patzlaff, a HyVee nutritionist, entitled her message 'Don't Ever Eat a Potato (and other nutrition myths)'. Patzlaff's presentation was based on popular nutrition and diet myths, along with numerous tips for eating your way to a healthy life.

Lezlee Koch and Lori Murray spoke during lunch on topics concerning getting yourself and others involved in our professional "movement" and familiarizing everyone with the White Paper. If you have not already been exposed to the proposed model of the White Paper, you can find a quick link at www.ascls-sd.org/id41.html.

Lon Kightlinger, MSPH, Ph.D.- a state epidemiologist from the SD Department of Health gave a presentation that included the current state required immunization information and state reportable diseases along with speaking on the topic of the outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease in a highly vaccinated population- Mumps 2006 – which affected eight Midwestern states.

'I know it When I See it: Leadership, Management and the Four V's' was presented by Matthew Fairholm, Ph.D.- Associate Professor of Political Science Dept. and the W.O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership- USD. Dr. Fairholm pointed out in his presentation "management and leadership are both vitally important, but have different sets of activities (roles). Managers make decisions and solve organizational problems and leaders become agents of change." He discussed the four V's of leadership that include: values, vision, vector and voice. These four V's help offer a way to examine and implement leadership into our own jobs and personal experiences.

In closing, as a part of expanding your "**professional journey**", we'd like to see more clinical laboratory professionals attending these great professional opportunities! **Get involved and you'll be glad you did!**



Spotlight on Becky Aman - continued

Professional Views & Insight:

The value of clinical laboratory science professionals is phenomenal. We are a vital part of the health care team. We make sure that the laboratory results the physician is using for treatment and diagnosis are as accurate and timely as possible. Without us, medicine would truly be guess work.

As Clinical Laboratory professionals, we have the responsibility to promote the profession by becoming involved in professional organizations and committees in our facilities. We need to make ourselves more visible. Introducing the profession to young people can help insure the future of the profession. As health care professionals we must continue to seek personal and professional growth to be the best we can be.

On a personal note, Becky loves to read, takes pride in her garden which is mainly flowers and weeds :-), and loves watching old movies and spending time with her niece (who really gives her and excuse to act silly once in awhile!)

Government Affairs: Competitive Bidding - Latest breaking news

Competitive Bidding Repeal Passes House; Senate Vote Does Not Pass

The **House of Representatives** passed (overwhelming vote of 355 to 59) its version of the 2008 Medicare funding bill. Included in this bill were three important victories for the clinical laboratory industry: 1) repeal of Medicare's laboratory competitive bidding demonstration project; 2) extension of the so-called technical component grandfather clause for 18 months; and, 3) replacement of the scheduled 10.1% cut in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (due to occur on July 1) with a fee increase.

Senate Action: June 27, 2008 - Cloture Fails By One Vote In Senate
Senate Democrats came one vote shy of ending debate on a House-passed Medicare bill (HR 6331). 60 votes were needed to invoke cloture. The Democrats obtained 59 votes, with majority leader Harry Reid changing his YES vote to a NO vote in order to reserve the right to bring the cloture issue up again.

Both the House and Senate have recessed for the July 4 holiday, and the Democrats are vowing to bring this legislation up for another vote again after they return from the July 4 recess. All ASCLS Members and healthcare leaders are being requested to continue contacting your Members of Congress, especially senators who voted NO or didn't vote, to urge them to vote in favor of this legislation.

Region V Senators Vote on Cloture:

Voted For Cloture: Coleman (R-MN), Conrad (D-ND), Dorgan (D-ND), Feingold (D-WI), Johnson (D-SD), Klobuchar (D-MN), Kohl (D-WI)

Voted Against Cloture: Thune (R-SD)



ASCLS-SD SPOTLIGHT: "A Salute to An ASCLS-SD Shining Star!"

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS-SD Publications

[Rebecca \(Becky\) Aman, Tea SD](#)
[Avera McKennan Hospital & Southeast Technical Institute](#)



ASCLS Membership Spotlight this month is on Becky Aman, a true asset to our state Society and our profession!

Becky has continued her pursuit of excellence through education. She obtained her Associate at Presentation College in Aberdeen, went on to get her BS from Northern University and this spring, received her MS in Clinical Laboratory Science from the Univ. of ND in Grand Forks. Besides working for Avera McKennan, Becky teaches phlebotomy at Southeast Technical Institute. She also finds time to give back to the profession through serving on ASCLS-SD convention committees, serves in the Science Buddies program that helps students with science fair projects, and participated in a "Women in Science" this spring for 8th grade girls.

Becky has been a devout ASCLS member since 1999. When asked why she joined, she stated, "I joined to meet other professionals and build relationships to help us all serve our patients better. ([More on Becky - see side bar](#))