

# THE S O S H O W M E

Spring 2012

## President's Message

### Leap of Faith

By Shelly Schoeberlein

My 6 year old daughter recently made a profound culinary discovery – lettuce tastes good on tacos! No longer was she satisfied with just meat and cheese only. By deciding to take that leap of faith, she discovered a new way to enjoy a food that she already liked.

In comparison, I too have had to make leaps of faith in my career as a Medical Technologist. I have worked in different departments such as Microbiology, Hematology, and Flow Cytometry. I have even worked at a Breast Cancer clinic. Currently, I am an LIS specialist supporting the departments where I used to work. In 13 years, I have tried to not lose sight of what I liked and pursued interests that kept me engaged.

This year, it is St. Louis' turn to host the annual MoCLS Spring meeting at the Millennium Hotel on April 17 - 19. In partnership with the St. Louis Chapter of CLMA, we bring you the "World Champions of CLS Education" conference. As Registration co-chair I invite you to make your own leap of faith and join us in downtown St. Louis. There are many opportunities for one to re-connect with what they already like, but also to discover new disciplines. There are sessions geared towards your "bread and butter" topics such as Blood Bank, Chemistry, Hematology and Microbiology. In addition, Flow Cytometry, HLA, Lean Six Sigma and even strategies for your first job are a few of the offerings that you will find to complete your

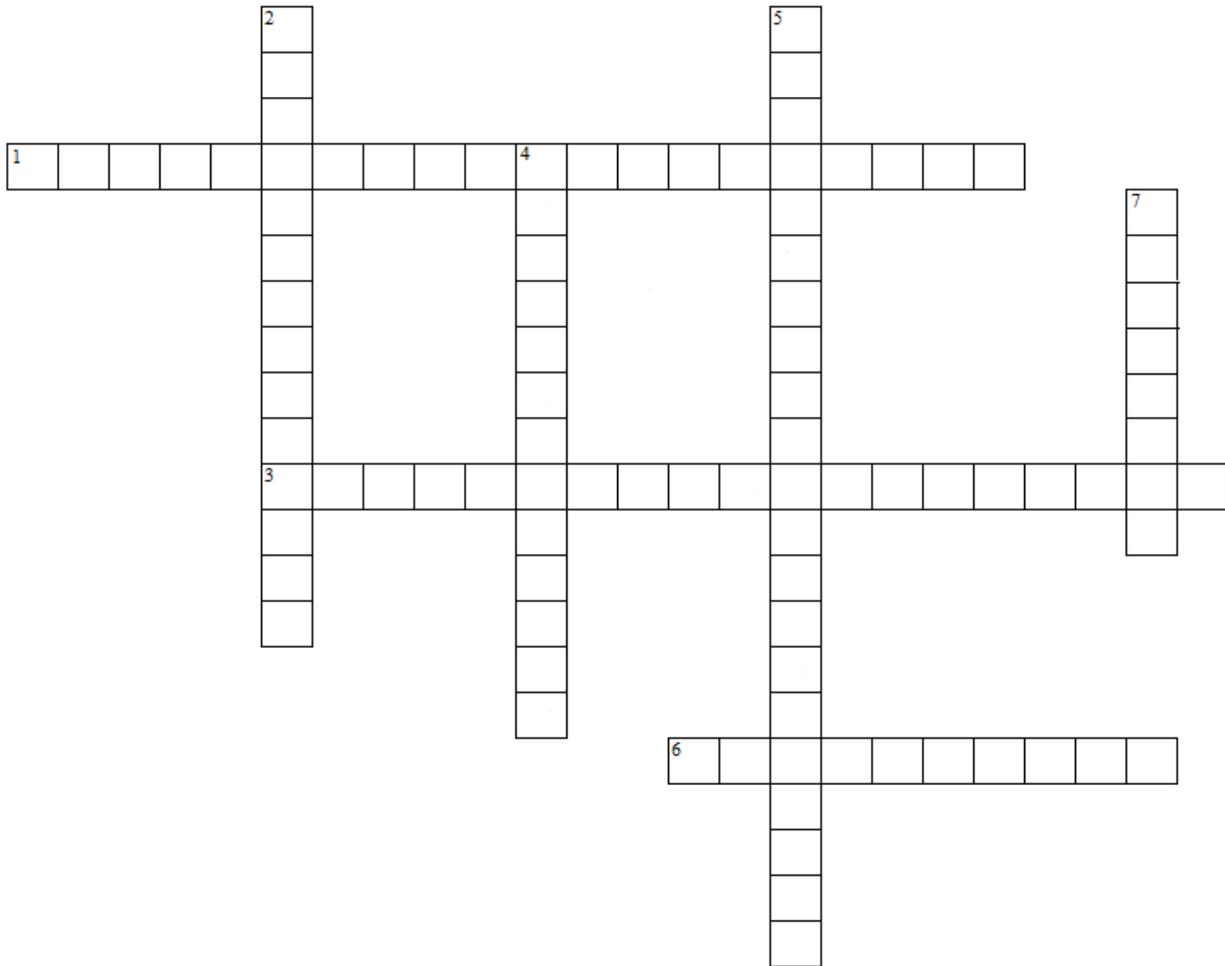
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conference experience. As a long time St. Louisan, I have taken for granted the many historical and cultural sites available downtown. If you live in St. Louis County or the Metro East, why not be a "tourist in your town" for a few days? For those of you living outside of the St. Louis Metro area, why not take in a ballgame? The St. Louis Cardinals will host the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday April 18. Game time is 7:15 and we have tickets available for \$14. For more information and to register, please visit [www.mocls.org](http://www.mocls.org)

Whether you are a student about to graduate, a professional needing to satisfy continuing education requirements, or an experienced laboratorian, I believe you will find a session that meets your interest. Incidentally, you may also find the "spice" that enhances the flavor of your career at this annual meeting. Take the leap of faith and discover something new – just like my daughter did. Her palate has broadened and will only continue to grow as she tries different foods. To my Fellow Laboratorians, I hope you hold true to what you like but continue to try new ways to enhance your laboratory career.

## Invisible Killers



### Across

1. A risk factor of this organism that causes diarrhea is recent antibiotic use
3. This is the causative agent of “whooping cough”
6. This disease state is characterized by a pseudomembrane in the throat (hint: a related organism is a common skin contaminant)

### Down

2. This parasite has increased incidence during Missouri hunting season due to ingestion of unfiltered stream water
4. This Genus termed “Acid Fast Bacilli” includes species such as MAC and MTB
5. This organism infected several people in Aria Resort & Casino, located on the Las Vegas Strip (hint: Originally discovered as an outbreak in a convention in 1976)
7. The most recent outbreak of this organism was linked to cantaloupe

Answers will be posted on our website at <http://www.mocls.org> within 1-2 weeks

## What does a Tree and ASCLS have in Common?

Tim R. Randolph  
Region VI Director

What does a tree and ASCLS have in common? The answer is member recruitment. Sound like a stretch? Please allow me to explain.

One issue we face in ASCLS at all levels is insufficient numbers of leaders to effectively accomplish the many important tasks assigned to the various positions and committees of the organization. We struggle to increase membership and mobilize voters because the tasks require teams with sufficient time to plan, prepare, execute, and evaluate plans. Who has those kinds of resources? Of course increased membership would eventually solve this problem and many others, but so far the problem of falling membership has been difficult to overcome.

The 'each one tell one' campaign is a workable model to increase membership, but it has at least one obvious flaw. It does not account for individuals in the string who refuse to participate. Imagine each link in the chain is a person. The chain grows one link at a time as the previous link brings in the next link. In this model all it takes is one broken link and the chain stops growing, much like a stop codon stops protein growth during protein synthesis. In contrast, the structure of a tree is very different from the structure of a chain. Cutting off one branch does not stop the growth of the tree. A recruitment model constructed like a tree has safeguards built in to account for those who will choose not to participate.

Imagine, if you will, a model like this. Each state society lists the members of their leadership. For the sake of round numbers and conservative computations let's say there are 10 leadership members in your state. If every member of leadership, regardless of their assigned position, were

required to list the people within their sphere of influence (layer 1), and those people in the second layer were asked to do the same and so on, we would have exponential growth. Yeah; me too!! I have done that and it failed. But can the most important reasons for failure be identified and shored up?

What must be included for the tree model to work is accountability. I agree,

**See ASCLS on page 4**

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## Career or just a Job??

Sharon Duessel MLS (ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
Professional Affairs Chair

I am currently on the education committee at my place of employment. As we discuss whether to increase our required continuing education credits (CUEs), I am surprised by the discussion.

With the current economic struggle, I can well understand the need for careful spending. But I also understand the necessity of continuously moving forward, improving yourself, and learning how to better care for your patients. Maybe I am just naïve, but I prefer to believe that my fellow laboratorians enter this field to serve and make a difference, even if just in the background, for patients.

What we do should not be just a job. Regardless of public awareness, we need to hold ourselves to higher standards. We should strive to be our best, to show we take our career seriously, that we care about accuracy, and that above all: we better ourselves to better serve the patient. After all, the healthcare system needs us – the men and women who provide timely and accurate results- so that caregivers can give the best patient care possible.

## ASCLS continued from page 3

accountability does not guarantee task completion and it certainly does not guarantee interest by those contacted. But what it does do is increase the odds that those who desire to accomplish the task are less likely to get distracted by life and simply forget.

How do we incorporate accountability into the tree model of member recruitment? Each person in each level is not only responsible for generating the list, making the contacts, and delivering the “sales pitch”, but they are also responsible for doing regular follow-up with the individuals in the layer under them. Follow-up means more than simply sending an email reminder each month. It also means asking for the contact list from each of the ten people under you. Since we expect that some people in the layer under us will not generate the list and some of those that do will generate the list but not make the contacts; the task of contacting becomes the responsibility of those in the layer above. If this level of attrition is realistic, it insures that we have certainly lost all hope of exponential growth but at least the chain is not broken. A tree with half its limbs still produces a lot of leaves.

Let’s apply this system with a simple calculation using realistic expectations. The working assumption is that most of the people in layer one have a vested interest in the success. After all they are the state leadership. Let’s say five of the ten members of your leadership create the list of 10 contacts. This generates 50 contacts. If only 10% of these 50 people responded to the request (become a member or write a congressional letter) we would have 5 new members or 5 letters to congress among the level 2 people. However, if half of these people generate the list for layer three, we would have contacted 250 people. If only 10% of those 250 respond to the request we

would have 25 new members or political letters. In round three (layer 4), we will have contacted 1,250 people and, again, if only 10% respond we would have 125 new members for political letters. Fifty percent of the people in each layer would be a non-participant and the other 50% would be responsible for 50 names (half of the 100 if all were to participate.) If we made a layer 5 we will have contacted 6,250 people and have 625 new members or political letters.

Another obstacle that must be overcome for this system to work is that we must temporarily downsize our responsibilities in state leadership to create sufficient time to make this system successful. I suspect if we all took a hard look at our state organizations we could find many tasks, although important, less important than membership and/or political action. If so, maybe it is time to let a few things go for a few years and give this and other ideas a try in hopes of improving membership or obtaining licensure. Is it possible that downsizing our activities for a season and redirecting our energies in member recruitment might conquer these obstacles and solve many other problems we face? Are you willing to try?

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## Jefferson Regional Blood Bankers do the Tango!

By Debbie Baudler MS, MT (ASCP)SBB<sup>cm</sup>



The blood bankers at Jefferson Regional Medical Center are dancing! On March 27, 2012 we went live with our new analyzer, the Tango. The benefits of this automation are standardization of blood bank tests among shifts and freeing up the techs to do multiple tasks at the bench. This instrument will be on display at the State meeting in St. Louis, April 17-19. Visit the Bio-Rad booth.

## KUDOS!

This column features achievements made by our members and awards they received for all their efforts. If you would like to share your good news, please e-mail Sharon Duessel at [sharon.duessel.mls@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.duessel.mls@gmail.com)

Congratulations to our long time members:

10 years: Mona Hebert  
April Hansen  
Jason Small

25 years: Rhonda Ferret  
Renee Setina

50 years: Clyde Nelson

Big WOW for their dedication to the Laboratory Profession!!

Congratulations Tim Randolph, PhD, MLS! On April 20, 2012 Tim will be inducted into the Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University Alumni Hall of Fame. This is a momentous occasion, it being the first class of inductees from the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science!

## Celebrate 2012 NMLPW!

Sharon Duessel MLS (ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
Professional Affairs Chair

April 22-28, 2012 is the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (NMLPW). Originally termed “National Medical Laboratory Week”, this is the one week of the year geared specifically towards Professionals in the Clinical Lab Science field, researchers, and the educators!

With all of the recent layoffs and cutbacks, this year NMLPW means even more to everyone. One of the hardest working and the most dedicated fields in all of the work force, Clinical Laboratory

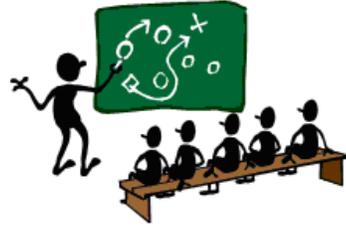
Scientists deserve this week of recognition. Whether or not the rest of the Nation knows how vital Clinical Laboratory Scientists are to healthcare, the people in this field work tirelessly to provide the best care possible to each and every patient.

So this year, celebrate extra hard. Remember to celebrate others in the field and your own accomplishments! And get out there and promote the profession, because being in the background does not have to be a hallmark of our field.

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## Why Continuing Education?

By Debbie Baudler MS, MT (ASCP)SBB<sup>cm</sup>



Professional continuing education can be defined as a specific learning activity generally characterized by the issuance of a certificate or continuing education units (CEU) for the purpose of documenting attendance at a designated seminar or course of instruction. Any MLS or MLT that has passed the ASCP Board of Registry after 2004 is required to submit 36 CEUs [Continuing Education Units] every 3 years to renew their certification. For those MTs and MLTs that are not required to submit CEUs, participating in continuing education workshops or programs keeps your skills current in the ever changing world of laboratory medicine and offers a great opportunity to learn new material. Listed below is a partial list of opportunities for obtaining continuing education credits:

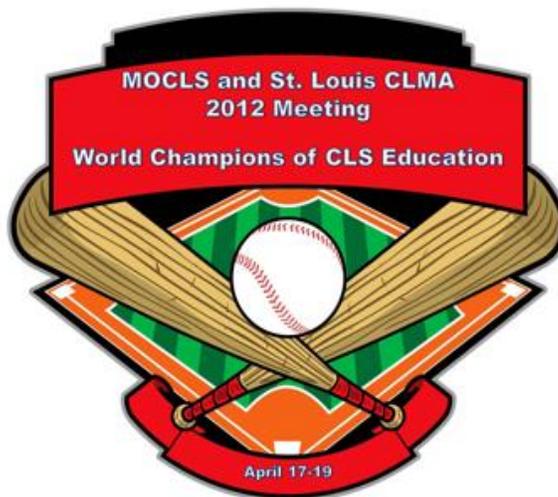
- **Annual MoCLS meeting:** this year it is held in St. Louis April 17-19, 2012. See <http://www.mocls.org> website for more information and links to registration.
- **LABCE [MediaLab]** offers individual subscriptions to over 40 online courses. You may earn over 80 hours of P.A.C.E. credit for only \$95 /year. See <http://www.medialabinc.net> for more information.
- **ASCLS:** ASCLS offers Focus articles in the CLS journal for P.A.C.E. credit. Credits are available at <http://www.ascls.org>. Click on the Professional Development link, and then the Online Education link. Then choose the option for Online Learning. You will find a category of **CMM** [Certificate Maintenance Membership] that provides members 12 PACE credits for \$55 + dues or **CMMP** [Certificate Maintenance Membership Plus] that provides members UNLIMITED PACE credits for \$95 + dues.
- **Advance Magazine:** A free publication that provides Learning Scope continuing education articles and test questions for \$15 each for ASCLS members or \$20 for nonmembers. See <http://www.laboratorian.advanceweb.com> for more information.
- **ASCLS, ASCP, AABB and many other organizations:** offer lots of continuing education workshops at their annual meetings. Check out these websites for more information: <http://www.ascls.org> , <http://www.ascp.org> and <http://www.aabb.org>

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Interested in submitting an article for a future SoShowMe Newsletter? Or are there someone's accomplishments you wish to acknowledge? Email Sharon Duessel at [sharon.duessel.mls@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.duessel.mls@gmail.com)

# Annual State Meeting

“World Champions of CLS Education” is the theme for this year’s MoCLS conference. Mark your calendars for [April 17-19, 2012](#). It will be held downtown at the Millennium Hotel-St. Louis. What better way to celebrate the laboratory profession than to attend some of the many educational sessions we will be hosting. There will also be several opportunities to meet with laboratory vendors to see the latest in laboratory products and instrumentation. Go to our website <http://www.mocls.org> for more information on the conference and a link to registration. Register today!



## Calendar of Events

### **MoCLS/St.Louis Chapter of CLMA Spring Meeting 2012**

April 17-19, 2012

Millennium Hotel, Downtown St. Louis

See MoCLS.org for more information and to register

### **Final 2011-2012 MoCLS Board Meeting**

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Spring Meeting

Millennium Hotel, Downtown St. Louis

### **2012 National Medical Laboratory Professional’s Week**

April 22-April 28, 2012

See ASCLS.org for ideas on how you can celebrate Lab Week

### **ASCLS 80th Annual Meeting**

July 17–21, 2012

Millennium Biltmore Hotel

Los Angeles, California

See ASCLS.org for more information and to register

### **Clinical Lab Expo**

July 17–19, 2012

Los Angeles Convention Center

Los Angeles, California

### **2013 Quad-State Meeting (NE, IA, KS, Mo)**

April 3-5, 2013

La Vista Conference Center

La Vista, Nebraska

## **Your MoCLS Board**

President \* Shelly Schoeberlein  
schoebeshell@gmail.com

President – Elect \* Renee Setina  
holtip@sbcglobal.net

Past – President \* John Koenig  
Koe41322@yahoo.com

Executive Secretary \* Nancy Reddig  
nreddig@cmh.edu

Secretary \* Sharon Duessel  
sharon.duessel.mls@gmail.com

Treasurer \* Rita Heuertz  
heuertzr@slu.edu

First Year Professional \* Samantha Whittaker  
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kcortrec@slu.edu

1<sup>st</sup> Year Board Director \* Sarah Schumacher  
sarah.n.schumacher@gmail.com

2<sup>nd</sup> Year Board Director \* Debbie Baudler  
dbaud368@yahoo.com

Region VI Director \* Tim Randolph  
randoltr@slu.edu

If you're interested in serving on the Missouri Organization for Clinical Laboratory Science Board email Shelly Schoeberlein at [schoebeshell@gmail.com](mailto:schoebeshell@gmail.com).

Help can be in the form of holding a position, to helping out on a committee, to giving ideas on ways to increase membership and public awareness. Whatever your particular strengths, there is something you can do to help the Profession.

## **District Representatives**

St. Louis \* James Purnell  
purn1@sbcglobal.net

Columbia/Jeff City \* Alese Furnald  
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*Kansas City \* Vacant*

Springfield/Joplin \* April Hansen  
aprilannhansen@hotmail.com

*Poplar Bluff/Cape Girardeau \* Vacant*

*Hannibal/Kirksville \* Vacant*