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American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences  
Oregon Constituent Society Newsletter

# The Centrifuge

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## Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium October 24-27, 2018, Holiday Inn, Portland Airport, Portland, OR

There is still time to register for the [Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium](#).

The meeting provides a wide range of educational opportunities to meet continuing education needs, as well as access to companies who are showcasing their products.

This is a wonderful opportunity for at least

**24 hours of P.A.C.E.® approved, quality educational programming.**

[Register today](#) to join us October 24-27, 2018, at the Holiday Inn, Portland Airport, Portland, OR. The Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium offers networking opportunities with laboratory professionals from across the Pacific Northwest and access

to the [Exhibits](#) where you can experience the latest in laboratory technology.

Check out our [website](#) for all the pertinent information including a link to the discounted prices at the Hotel. We hope to see you in Portland!

Check out the program! [NWMLS Program](#). If you have already registered, thank You!

## Portland Community College MLT Program Graduates, June 2018 Class Teresa Wolfe, Ph.D., MT(ASCP), Department Chair and Program Director, PCC MLT Program

A Medical Laboratory Technology graduation ceremony was held on the PCC Cascade campus on June 15, 2018. To date all our students who have taken the ASCP exam have passed and many are now working in area hospitals, clinics, and State positions.

Join me in congratulating our 2018 graduating class:

Ahsan, Rokeya  
Bui, Tony  
Burghard, Amanda  
Dieter, Brady  
Fellows, Eric  
Fong, Man-Sze (Ameila)  
Hernandez, Genaro  
Huynh, Kaylee

Huynh, Dieu  
Lamb, Dayna  
Lee, Elena  
Rauch, Elizabeth  
Little, Jennifer  
Lu, Hang  
Nguyen, Ryan  
Nguyen, Stacy  
Nix, Amber  
Smith, Joelle  
Stady, Lauren  
Trinh, Thanh

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## PCC MLT Program June Graduation

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We just welcomed our incoming cohort of students to the MLT program during our new student orientation and luncheon, held on September 13, 2018 at the Cascade Campus. We had a very large and competitive applicant pool for the 2018 year, and we selected 21

outstanding applicants for our 2020 cohort. We are excited to start the new year with a fresh group of eager students!

In addition, the PCC MLT program went through a NAACLS accreditation review in October 2017. I am very pleased to announce that We received word in April 2018

that we received a recommendation for a 10-year continued accreditation through 2028!

For more information on the program, check out the website: [PCC MLT Program](#).

## New Professional Spotlight Ashley Slinkard, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Interview by Rachel Eberhard, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, ASCLS-OR New Professional Representative



Ashley Slinkard

### What is your name and when did you graduate from OIT?

My name is Ashley Slinkard and I graduated from OIT in 2017.

### Where do you work and what is your position?

I work at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend as a float tech in the Hematology and Chemistry departments.

### What is your favorite part about your job?

My favorite part is being able to provide the physician with the results they need to help make a diagnosis, so they can treat the patient as quickly as possible.

### What is the most challenging part of your job?

I think the most challenging part is the

schedule. Our lab, and many other labs, are facing staffing shortages so the techs we do have are spread very thin. The work life balance is most challenging for me.

### What is your biggest piece of advice for current and future students?

Don't be afraid to ask questions, especially when you start your first job as a tech. There is a lot to know and I've found that most techs are more than willing to help you out.

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**New Professional Spotlight – Ashley Slinkard**  
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**Why did you choose to become an MLS?**

I had gotten my bachelor’s degree in biology, fully planning on applying to dental school and becoming an orthodontist. As I did more shadowing, I realized I didn’t want to go to school for another 6 years or spend the money on it. I’ve always loved science so when I was looking into jobs I could use my Biology degree for, Medical Lab Scientist kept

coming up, so I decided to investigate it further. I found a program, applied and the rest is history.

**Why is being an ASCLS member important to you?**

It’s important for me to be a part of ASCLS because they’re an organization that is helping to give lab techs a voice. We are often overlooked in the lab, but we do play an important part in a patient’s diagnosis.

**What do you like to do outside of work?**

I like to snowboard, play volleyball, go to concerts, travel, and enjoy all the fun festivals and events that they have in Bend.

**Events Calendar: 2018**



Event	Date	Where
Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium (NWMLS)	October 24 – 27	Portland, OR
ASCLS Region IX Meeting	October 26	Portland, OR in conjunction with NWMLS
ASCLS-OR Board of Directors Meeting	TBD – timeframe is Oct. 24-26	Portland, OR in conjunction with NWMLS
ASCLS Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference	February 21-23, 2019	Baltimore, MD
ASCLS Legislative Symposium	March 18-19, 2019	Alexandria, VA



## ASCLS Legislative Symposium Recap – March 2018

Genaro Hernandez, Jr., M.S., MLT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

At the time of the writing of this article, the author was a student at Portland Community College in the MLT Program. He since has graduated (in June 2018) and passed his board exam. Due to space constraints, this article was not included in the Spring 2018 Centrifuge issue.



Genaro Hernandez Outside of  
Senator Merkley's Office

Attending the March 2018 ASCLS Legislative Symposium fulfilled my professional and personal goals. I learned about the symposium from my local and national ASCLS leaders who encouraged me to attend. I was recently appointed to the position of Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Representative for ASCLS-Oregon and attending the symposium enabled me to more effectively carryout my GAC duties.

The Legislative Symposium helped me to understand current legislation and issues that are detrimental to medical laboratories, medical laboratory personnel, and patients. The symposium focused on two main concerns. First, the flawed implementation of Section 216 of the Protecting Access to

Medicare Act (PAMA) passed by Congress in 2014. Second, the growing crisis in the shortage of medical laboratory personnel. These concerns are described below.

As it currently stands, PAMA will restrict patient access to essential laboratory services, compel smaller laboratories to close, and decrease medical laboratory jobs. Patients in nursing homes and rural areas will be most affected. In its implementation of the law, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) was tasked by Congress to establish a market-based payment system for laboratories paid according to the existing Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule. In doing so, CMS collected data on the cost of laboratory tests but only sampled 21 of 7,000 laboratories. Furthermore, sampled laboratories were larger laboratories that can afford to offer tests at a reduced cost due to the high volume of work they receive. In our Congressional visits, we asked Congress to introduce legislation that would require CMS to repeat their survey of laboratory testing costs using a representative sample of laboratories.

The shortage of medical laboratory personnel was another key point of our advocacy. Data suggest this shortage will become critical without proactive intervention. We learned firsthand from Veterans Affairs laboratory professionals that VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) also suffer from a shortage of medical laboratory technicians and

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*“The shortage of medical laboratory personnel was another key point of our advocacy. Data suggest this shortage will become critical without proactive intervention.”  
Genaro Hernandez, ASCLS-OR Legislative Symposium Representative*

## Legislative Symposium Update

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resources. Thus, VAMCs do not have the resources to train future medical laboratory professionals who are enrolled in medical laboratory educational programs. This makes it difficult for students to graduate and acquire the skills to compete for jobs. This situation also makes it challenging for educational programs to attract and prepare students since they must partner with laboratories to provide students with clinical practice. Consequently, states lose future medical laboratory personnel, and this adversely affects the quality of health care. In our Congressional visits, we asked Congress to address the shortage of clinical laboratory personnel within the Veterans Health Administration by providing resources VAMCs to address this need.

The symposium offered me so much more beyond learning about legislative issues. Before attending the symposium, I thought only a select few were able to lobby. To my surprise, I realized that anyone can visit Congress to share their concerns. I have a greater appreciation for our democratic process. I can lobby and my voice matters. The meeting also provided an opportunity to network with other professionals. I asked others for advice on applying for jobs in the next few months, work-life balance, different career paths, preparing for my board

exam, and strengthening my application for the ASCLS Leadership Academy. Every ASCLS member was kind, helpful, knowledgeable, encouraging, and mentored me. I exchanged business cards with those members who mentored me. I have never been happier as a member of a professional society. I appreciate the ASCLS and everyone in the organization who has guided me so that I can develop as a professional. I am grateful to have received an ASCLS Student Forum Legislative Symposium Travel Grant and support from the Oregon ASCLS to attend this wonderful symposium. I hope I can continue to attend this meeting every year and I highly recommend it to other students.



Legislative Symposium Attendees

*“... I realized that anyone can visit Congress to share their concerns. I have a greater appreciation for our democratic process.”*

*Genaro Hernandez, ASCLS-OR Legislative Symposium Representative*



## ASCLS 2018 Annual Meeting, Chicago Reflections and Recap



2018 ASCLS House of Delegates –  
President Deb Rodahl passing the gavel to  
President-elect Roslyn McQueen



National officer candidate presentation

*“This is a profession, not a job.”*  
2018/2019 President Roslyn McQueen

*“People join people.”*  
2017/2018 President Deb Rodahl

### Patty DeTurk, ASCLS-OR President:

Welcome to all our ASCLS-OR members! Some of you may be new to our organization, or you may be long time members. Continuing to stay active in ASCLS, as well as ASCLS-OR, is important to your access to valuable continuing education, either on-line, attending the seminars we sponsor (such as this October’s NWMLS or our Oregon Spring Seminar in Newport), or by attending the National Meeting. This year’s National Meeting was held in Chicago July 29 through August 2. We were able to send seven delegates to represent Oregon. Among the delegates were Rachelle Barrett, our incoming President-elect, Laura Sage, our out-going New Professional, Tiffany Mach, our Treasurer, Maja Chloupkova, our Past-President, Genaro Hernandez, our incoming Student Representative, Jackie Rice, our Secretary and Editor-in-Chief for the Centrifuge and me, the current President.

Among the topics discussed and voted on was the renaming and rewriting the levels of participation in ASCLS. The most discussed (and most opposed) was considering changing the “Emeritus” level to “Platinum”. As one member stated, “Platinum is a card, not who I am.” According to Wikipedia, Emeritus “is an adjective used to designate a retired professor, pastor, bishop, pope, director, president, prime minister, or other person. In some cases, the term is conferred automatically upon all persons who retire at a given rank, but in others, it remains a mark of distinguished service, awarded to only a few upon retirement.” The argument was that many older members were not retired but were members of long-standing. It was

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## Annual Meeting Recap

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thought that Emeritus was not truly applicable, and that Platinum was possibly a better reflection of length of, and commitment to, our membership. Ultimately it was voted by the attending membership that the title Emeritus be retained but reflect the combination of age and length of membership equaling or exceeding 90. It will also be a lower fee than Professional.

Two years ago, at the National Meeting, membership discussed and voted on the wording of our Diversity Statement, and last year voted on the approved ladder for the new Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Science (DCLS).

Another benefit of attending National, even as a non-voting member, is the wide range of seminars to attend, with a variety of topics. Among the ones available were:

- Sickle Cell Trait: A Sub-Clinical Disorder?
- Globalization and Infectious Diseases

- Massive Transfusion Protocols: Does one size really fit all?
- One Haplotype Matched Bone Marrow/Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplants
- Newest Pieces in the Iron Puzzle and the Mutations Leading to Anemias
- D-Dimer and the Wells Score May Reduce Overuse of CT Scans in Suspected PE Patients
- Not Today: Dealing with Chaos and Surviving the Laboratory

The session I found most interesting and topical I will discuss in a future article: “Insert Lab Values Here: Meeting the Needs of Transgender Patients in the Clinical Laboratory.”

If you are interested in being a delegate at an upcoming ASCLS National Meeting, please contact any of our officers listed on our website leadership page, our Facebook or our (NEW!) Twitter.

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Exhibits – ASCLS Annual Meeting 2018



## Annual Meeting Recap

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### Rachelle Barrett, ASCLS-OR President-Elect:

Though I have attended other professional conferences and helped to plan the Oregon Spring Seminar, our local conference, this was my first time attending the national American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Conference. I was able to attend as an Oregon Delegate and to participate in the important process of voting on changes to our society's bylaws, meet the society national leadership and other regional leadership, and to have my eyes opened really about what this society is doing for the profession.

First, I was blown away by the organization that went into preparing this conference (they had an App, that made the whole experience so much easier to plan out). In preparation for my CE experience, I downloaded the app and checked out all lectures that I was interested in. I loaded them to my own personal calendar and received updates regarding location and time for my individually designed schedule. The vendor hall was a chartered bus ride away from the continuing education lectures, and the buses were always available when I needed them. There were a variety of networking events listed in the app and by the end of the conference, I had all my PACE credit submitted. So easy.

As far as the actual continuing education lectures were concerned, they were so interesting that I sometimes felt that the hour and half time they were allotted wasn't enough. I attended lectures on a variety of subjects from molecular methods, having difficult conversations professionally, to a panel on disaster planning. Much of the information I learned from these lectures I

immediately brought back to apply to my work life at home. There was a description of an Interprofessional Program that directly applies to an Interprofessional Program we are participating in at OHSU. I applaud all speakers who brought their knowledge and experiences to this event.



Chicago Fire patrols Chicago River near Swissotel, the annual meeting venue

I have been a part of ASCLS almost my entire career, but this conference was really the first time I have interacted with the society on the national level. Past conferences I have attended have centered on gaining continuing education credits and interacting with the vendors. For me at this ASCLS conference, gaining CE was minor compared with the experience of delving into the effect we as individuals can have on legislation and the national recognition of our profession. If you are reading this and the CE was your major focus for previous conference attendance, then I encourage you to explore a little deeper. ASCLS is really trying to come into the future as a professional organization. On the website you will notice a tab labeled

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## Annual Meeting Recap

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“communication”. This tab leads you to many options of ways to communicate with other laboratory professionals nationally. There are links to pod casts and twitter posts from pathologists that further our individual knowledge and promote the profession. I encourage you to click on the “advocacy-issues” tab and read the position papers put forth by your organization to see if you agree or disagree with the statements made. This is something we all have an opportunity to be involved in. You can help create these position papers, you can share an experience in your laboratory with other laboratory scientists that changes their perspective or gives comfort to someone in your same position.

From this experience I have been galvanized into action. I, for the first time, learned how to use social media to promote my profession. I learned that there is career advancement for Medical Technologists beyond going to medical school (we now have a doctoral track). I was introduced to the tough legislation that is affecting our profession (for example PAMA and CLIA personnel standards) and ways that I can help my local laboratory adjust. I want to bring all these experiences to our local chapter of ASCLS. I want you to feel empowered as an experienced professional who has something to contribute.



**Genaro Hernandez accepting the DAC Travel Grant Award at the Awards Ceremony, with Past ASCLS President Debra Rodahl**

### **Genaro Hernandez, ASCLS-OR Student Representative:**

I am grateful to have attended the 2018 ASCLS Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. I truly enjoyed my experience and I hope to attend future Meetings. Here are some of my most memorable experiences from the Meeting.

I met Daniel Haun, Clinical Instructor at Louisiana State University. He gave a fascinating presentation on Virtual Microscopy which allows future medical laboratory techs to receive microscopy training completely online. Interestingly, instead of only providing a static image, techs are presented with a scannable image and context. Instructor Haun generates his own data using a customized microscope to collect images in the x, y, and z planes. This was the first time I saw a medical laboratory tech create his own data. This was especially exciting to me because of my computer science background. I would like to work with medical laboratory data but most of the data

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## Annual Meeting Recap

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are difficult to obtain. They are usually proprietary and/or contain personally identifiable information. Instructor Haun and I have been in contact since the Meeting and he is helping me reconstruct his microscope, so I can generate my own images to work with. His presentation has encouraged me to use my interdisciplinary background and be attentive to potential informatics projects in my workplace.

Clarence Harris, Head of International Sales at US Bank, gave a powerful presentation on diversity and why it matters. Mr. Harris revealed that he was grateful for the opportunity to speak to us because he was indebted to the techs who provided STAT results when his wife was diagnosed with brain cancer. Those results were essential to her treatment. He shared several important concepts. First, diversity without inclusion can be detrimental to an organization. Second, diversity and inclusion are essential for new ideas to surface. Third, those new ideas can help an organization to flourish. He noted that organizations must be open to change, or they will lose opportunities to remain viable. Mr. Harris provided real life examples of successful companies that followed these principles and unsuccessful companies that did not.

I was fortunate to receive a Diversity Advocacy Council (DAC) Travel Grant that allowed me to attend the Meeting. I attended the DAC Committee Meeting and listened while the committee members earnestly discussed the delicate issue of how to manage and interpret transgender laboratory results. Attending the DAC Committee Meeting prepared me to best serve transgender patients.

During the Meeting, I asked my more experienced colleagues to recommend resources for developing leadership skills and attaining career goals. Past ASCLS President Debra Rodahl mentioned *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, a book I have enjoyed since the Meeting. Clarence Harris suggested learning from other successful people such as Zig Ziglar, Tom Hopkins, and Brian Tracy. These interactions have been helpful and have led me to explore additional related books and resources.

The aforementioned are among my most memorable experiences from the 2018 ASCLS Annual Meeting—there are many more. I am proud to be a member of ASCLS and I am grateful for all the members who have supported my professional development. My goal is to remain active in ASCLS by continuing to serve in leadership roles. I look forward to the next Annual Meeting.



Lake Michigan  
Lakefront Trail

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## Annual Meeting Recap

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### Tiffany Mach, ASCLS-OR Treasurer:

Lab life began for me in 1997, when I graduated the MLT program at Portland Community College. I spent two years at Providence, three years at a physician's office laboratory, three years as the supervisor of that POL, took several years off when my kids were little, and then came back to the lab as a generalist at Portland Adventist Medical Center. In all those years I was never connected, never really part of anything lab related that was bigger than my little corner of the world. I didn't know what I was missing. Fast forward a few years, and I was recruited to take over the Treasurer position for ASCLS-OR. I took the position in the hopes of being more involved in the Oregon Spring Seminar, and what I found was so much more.

In July I went to Chicago with the other delegates from our region. I've never been on a business trip before and had no idea what to expect. It was incredible. Though I couldn't attend as many sessions as I wanted, (the MLS program stops for nothing), I did attend

several over the course of the trip that were interesting, informative, and left me wanting to learn more. The speakers were fantastic, and the selection of various topics conference-wide was impressive. I downloaded the app at the beginning of our trip that ended up being a "must have" for choosing sessions, planning our days, and generally staying on track of the event. The biggest take away for me was the people I met and made connections with while we were there. Going to national opened my eyes to the network of incredibly talented and brilliant people we have in our midst. I felt connected in a way I haven't in a long time. I realize there is something more to lab life than the day-to-day shifts every week. Being involved in ASCLS has shifted my focus to a larger view. ASCLS isn't just a way to get CE's. We have an opportunity to get people excited to be involved again. We have the chance to shape the future of our profession, and if I've learned anything since the long-ago days of MLT school, it's that the lab is always changing. I look forward to seeing you all at NWMLS and am excited about getting other people excited to become part of ASCLS.



Lake Shore East Park – an oasis near the Swissotel, the ASCLS annual meeting headquarters





If you are interested in becoming more involved in ASCLS-OR by serving on a committee, becoming a board member, or providing ideas and input, please contact president Patty DeTurk at [pathywaysnw@aol.com](mailto:pathywaysnw@aol.com)

If you have an announcement, article or essay you would like to contribute to **The Centrifuge**, please submit it for publication! Has someone you know receive a promotion? An award or prize? Special recognition? Done something unique that deserves highlighting? Please send ideas and submissions to Centrifuge editor Jackie Rice [jacric2001@yahoo.com](mailto:jacric2001@yahoo.com)

<b>ASCLS-OR Leadership</b>	
<b>For contact information, follow this link:</b>	
<b><u><a href="#">ASCLS-OR Leadership</a></u></b>	
<b>Office</b>	<b>August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019</b>
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Past President	Maja Chloupkova
Student Representative	Genaro Hernandez
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Bylaws Chair	Maja Chloupkova
<p><i>Individuals in leadership positions serve on a voluntary basis. Some expenses are covered through membership fees and industry grants when traveling on society business, such as the annual meeting, Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference and Legislative Symposium.</i></p>	

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