



ASCLS is excited to introduce the ASCLS Voices Under 40, a monthly recognition of one of our many, talented and committed young professionals under 40 years old. The ASCLS Voices Spotlight has been developed to honor ASCLS members who have shown exceptional commitment to ASCLS, the laboratory profession, and their community at large at a younger age in their professional career. Each month we spotlight one of the Shining Voices who were selected from many nominations across the country.

Please meet Pankaj Kumar Sethi, DVM, MS, PhD, CC(NRCC), MB(ASCP) from Statham, Georgia.

Pankaj is the Director of Toxicology and Genetics for Ammon Analytical Laboratory. He is responsible for working with laboratory administration on planning, organizing and directing laboratory operations and ensuring compliance with all local, state and federal regulations. Daily, he rounds in the laboratory to judge effectiveness of operations, utilization of personnel and supplies, and the general ethical and professional environment. Pankaj is also responsible for several other administrative tasks such as budget, competency, performance, policies and procedures, as well as making recommendations on new equipment. Another area that Pankaj is involved in is helping to develop new analytical methods in the areas of addiction drug testing, toxicology and clinical diagnostics. He also helps addiction counselors and physicians on test selection and test interpretation.



Pankaj joined ASCLS in 2017, and has been actively involved ever since. He is currently serving as a member of the national Awards Committee, an interested observer for the national Leadership Academy and the Scientific Assembly Chair for Education in Georgia. Prior to joining ASCLS, Pankaj was involved with the Society of Toxicology, American Association of Clinical Chemistry and American Society of Clinical Pathology.

When asked about his motivation for being actively involved in ASCLS, Pankaj replied: "ASCLS provides a platform for me to develop my leadership skills and grow professionally. Being a laboratory director, I spend a significant amount of time inside the laboratory. Staying actively involved with ASCLS keeps me current in the field of medical laboratory science. Learning from the senior members in the organization encourages me to keep moving forward with my future endeavors in developing innovative new laboratory methods for disease diagnosis and treatment. It gives me immense satisfaction to be a part of an organization that make a positive impact on patient's health."

Pankaj was highly recommended for the Voices Under 40 Award by his peers. Here is what one of his nominators had to say, "Based on his exceptional leadership experience in developing diagnostic assays for clinical laboratory applications, a strong research background, understanding of molecular genetics and toxicology testing and publication record, I consider Dr. Sethi to be one of the top scientists in the field. While working with Dr. Sethi, I witnessed an unparalleled desire and commitment to the laboratory science profession. He is a true ambassador for this profession and has the ability to inspire others to work in this field."

Outside of ASCLS, Pankaj's greatest achievement was moving from a small town in India, to another country to pursue his passion (despite many people's doubts), and complete his doctorate in Clinical Toxicology. He also became board certified in clinical chemistry and molecular biology as well. "It was a journey of learning to believe in myself. I feel strongly that laboratory professionals are not as visible as doctors, but they play a critical role in patient diagnosis and treatment. "