



**THE NEW PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE E-NEWSLETTER**

ISSUE 1 DECEMBER 2013

**Under Construction** *by Jasmin Davis*

As of earlier this year, a decision was made to revamp the current structure of the New Professionals Committee (NPC) in an attempt to better suit the needs of new professionals. The New Professionals Committee Restructure Task Force was created, and several recommendations were formed. Now, instead of this group being exclusive to new professionals, it will be more inclusive and open to new members who also want to know more about ASCLS. New professionals are defined as a laboratory professional with less than 5 years of experience in the practice. Both new professionals and new PFI and PFII members in the first four years of their membership can belong to this “new structure”.

So what all has changed? What can you expect from the 2014 Annual Meeting? These are probably the first questions you might have, and here is a simple Q&A to try to answer those and any others that might arise.

**Calendar of Events**

**CLEC**  
February 20, 2014  
San Jose, CA

**Legislative Symposium**  
March 17-18, 2014  
Washington, DC

**Annual Meeting**  
July 29-August 2, 2014  
Chicago, IL

**Why the restructure?**

The objective was to create a more inclusive group of members who are still learning about the profession and/or ASCLS. This group will be able to provide members with an introduction to everything ASCLS. Here members will be able to stay informed and become aware of the numerous opportunities to be active in ASCLS.

**When does the new structure go into effect?**

The new structure goes into effect as of July 2014 at the Annual Meeting in Chicago.

**Who does the new group include?**

The restructured group includes new professionals (FYP, PF1 or PF2 members) and new members (PF1s or PF2s) of less than 5 years.

**What will the restructured group look like?**

First it will be more like a forum than a committee because membership is all inclusive and not limited to a small group of “committee members”. There will be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Communication Coordinators. All members of the group who attend the group meeting at the ASCLS Annual Meeting can participate in determining the charges to be accomplished for the year. Instead of the previous NPC regional representatives, there will be one Communications Coordinator appointed by the Regional Director from each of the ten regions. This could be, but is not limited to, the regional NPC representative or First Year Professional Director.

**What activities will the group undertake each year?**

This group will have three recurring charges annually: Establish a key network of those members interested in participating in efforts of the new group and communicate with them on a monthly basis, educate members of the new group on ASCLS and opportunities within ASCLS so all involved gain a better understanding of the inner workings of ASCLS, and identify the needs of those new to the profession and/or ASCLS to determine how ASCLS can help meet those needs as an organization. Now with a new restructure will have to be a new name encompassing the new members. This is where you can help! Submit to us your ideas for the new name, keeping in mind that it should fit within the organizational structure and mission of ASCLS. For any further questions you can always contact your regional representatives.

**In this issue:**

NPC Restructure	1-2
Competency	2
ASCLS Involvement	3
NPC Committee	4-5
What is ASCLS and why join?	6
NPC Message	6



## Under Construction cont.

### How will officers be elected?

The Vice Chair and Secretary will be elected during EACH ASCLS Annual Meeting by the members of the group. Nominations will be solicited in the spring. There will be a session time specifically for this group to meet during which elections will be held and planning will begin for the following year. All members of the group present will be eligible to vote for the officers. The Vice Chair may succeed to the Chair position during the second year of their two year term through the appointment process.

### Who will be the regional representatives?

Instead of the previous NPC regional representatives, there will be one Communications Coordinator appointed by the Regional Director from each of the ten regions. This could be, but is not limited to, the regional NPC representative or First Year Professional Director.

### What activities will the group undertake each year?

This group will have three recurring charges annually: Establish a key network of those members interested in participating in efforts of the new group and communicate with them on a monthly basis; educate members of the new group on ASCLS and opportunities within ASCLS so all involved gain a better understanding of the inner workings of ASCLS; and identify the needs of those new to the profession and/or ASCLS to determine how ASCLS can help meet those needs as an organization. Now with a new structure will have to be a new name encompassing the new members. This is where you can help! Submit to us your ideas for the new name, keeping in mind that it should fit within the organizational structure and mission of ASCLS. For any further questions you can always contact your regional representatives.

---

*“I recommended that instead of focusing on your coworker’s participation in CMP, you focus on your career.”*

## Are You Competent? *by Peregrina Roberson*

Now that you have graduated, passed the certification exam and found a job, you can relax. Or can you? If you earned your ASCP certification after January 1, 2004, ASCP requires you to participate in the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) in order to maintain your certification. WHAT? After all my hard work in school, passing the certification exam and finding a job, I’m not done? Why do I have to spend my time and money on a CMP when some of my coworkers don’t have to? Yes, it can be frustrating and it may seem unfair but don’t worry. I will give you some reasons why having a positive attitude towards CMP is good for your career and tips that can help you save money.

First let’s discuss the importance of CMP. According to the ASCP U.S. Certification Maintenance Program booklet, “The goal of the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) is to demonstrate to the public that laboratory professionals with this designation are performing activities to stay current in their practice.” Maintaining your certification (and doing it with a smile) also proves that you care about our profession, and that you understand the importance of having documentation that proves your competency. To some people it may seem unfair that not everybody has to participate in CMP. I recommended that instead of focusing on your coworker’s participation in CMP, you focus on your career.

---

Set a few short and long term goals for yourself. Consider thinking about: What do you want to learn? What are your weak subjects? Do you want to work toward a specialty? These things will help you spend your time and energy wisely.

In these hard economic times, institutions are looking for ways to save money. If your institution has an educational budget that has been affected, it might be harder to obtain free continuing education (CE) credits. There is some good news! Some instrument manufacturing companies like Sysmex, Stago, and Siemens offer FREE CE credits. Look around your laboratory to see what manufacturers you are using, then go to their websites' education pages. Another way that you can earn credits, which is my favorite, is to be active in your state's ASCLS chapter. You can volunteer to help organize your state's ASCLS Annual Conference. I am a member of ASCLS-Oregon, and I was able to earn free registration when I helped organize the Oregon Spring Seminar. That was two days of CE credits for free! The ASCLS website will sometimes periodically offer free courses, so be sure to check in from time to time. Maintaining your certification can be especially burdensome if you wait until the last minute to complete your courses.

You should start earning CE credits as soon as you can after passing the certification exam. Be attentive for all opportunities where you can earn free CE credits. Volunteer in your state's ASCLS chapter. Educate yourself on what can be used as a CE credit. Earning CE credits can be fun. You get to learn something new, meet new people with similar interests, and most importantly you officially prove that you are a competent laboratory professional.

## Getting Active in ASCLS Committees *by Malissa Surprenant*

In my first job after graduating with my bachelor's degree, lab week celebrations at my healthcare institution were, well... lame. While many of my coworkers shared the same feelings, I was the only one who did something about it. I volunteered to help with the following year's celebrations, which turned out to be quite a success. What good would I have accomplished sitting around complaining about how lame it was? It's not a unique concept. When someone is in a situation where they are capable of effecting change, the only thing stopping them is usually themselves. ASCLS offers many different committees that require volunteers to help make things happen. Some of those committees are but not limited to: Promotion of the Profession Committee, Patient Safety Committee, and Government Affairs Committee. Go to [www.ascls.org/ascls-leadership/leadership-resources](http://www.ascls.org/ascls-leadership/leadership-resources) and access the Position Descriptions link under Society Leadership for a complete listing and description of the ASCLS committees.

**Join these committees to help effect change.** As a new graduate reading this you may think that you are too new in the field and need to gain prior experience. WRONG! New graduates (new professionals) can be a valuable asset as they provide a new perspective on topics. New graduates are fresh out of school, looking at the world rather differently than the people who have been working in the laboratories for some time. ASCLS needs a mix of the tried and true experienced professionals active on its committees along with new grads who bring fresh ideas or even some that haven't worked previously but can work seamlessly when tweaked together.

**Join these committees to grow professionally.** Being on a national committee will introduce you to colleagues all around the United States, from all ASCLS regions, and all different work shifts. Different ideas may arise from people who work different shifts, or people who work in a small institution versus a larger institution. Either way, ideas and information can be shared between numerous people with all different ways of looking at the same issue. Working together with these different people can help to inspire great professional networking.

So the next time you see something in our profession and think it needs updating, think about how you could help influence change and set a new direction and get active! In case you missed the call for volunteers in the September issue of *ASCLS Today* even though December 1 was the deadline to volunteer feel free to email Susie Zanto, ASCLS President-Elect, at [da\\_zzz@yahoo.com](mailto:da_zzz@yahoo.com) with your interests and contact information in case they still have positions to fill.

## Meet the New Professionals Committee!



“I got involved with ASCLS after graduation. Not many people actually know what a medical laboratory scientist is and ASCLS is working to remedy that! Promoting this profession is a passion of mine, and working with my colleagues in the organization is a great way to support our common cause. ASCLS also provides plenty of opportunities for professional development, which is a valued asset for us young professionals.”

Malissa Surprenant Region I [MalissaSurprenant@hotmail.com](mailto:MalissaSurprenant@hotmail.com)



“I got involved with ASCLS as a student at APSU in Clarksville, TN. My professor was the president of the state society at the time and encouraged me to apply for the student representative position. I applied, became the student representative, and I’ve been involved ever since. I love the networking opportunities and the involvement politically.”

Rachael Fowler Region III [rachael.fowler.mls@gmail.com](mailto:rachael.fowler.mls@gmail.com)



“I got involved with ASCLS as a student and I’ve been active ever since. My initial motive was to meet other professionals to learn from their experiences as a student and an intern. ASCLS not only provided me with a great professional network, but also leadership development and educational and research opportunities.”

Jonathan Gusilatar Region IV [jr.gusilatar@gmail.com](mailto:jr.gusilatar@gmail.com)



“I got involved in ASCLS because I wanted to gain more leadership experience and meet other professionals who shared my passion for laboratory medicine. The experiences I’ve had so far have been extremely rewarding and they keep me inspired to stay active in ASCLS. ASCLS has been instrumental in my growth and development as a professional.”

Karen Larson Region V [klarso42@fairview.org](mailto:klarso42@fairview.org)



“I got involved with ASCLS on the state level as a student in the CLS program at LSU Health Science Center in Shreveport. I served as the representative for our program on the student government council, and I became a member of the student bowl team. My program director and professors were highly involved on the state and national level and suggested that I seek opportunities as a student. As a senior, I was elected student forum chair for Louisiana and my journey with ASCLS began. During my term, I focused on three main areas during my term: recruitment, retention, and fundraising. I had the opportunity to attend national meeting and this is where I found my niche within the organization. ASCLS is more than an organization; it is an opportunity for students and other lab professionals to become involved. I continue to stay active so that I can stay current with the state of our profession. I continue to challenge upcoming students and first year professionals to do the same. ASCLS has opened a world of opportunities for my career.”

Chantelle George Region VII [chantellegeorge1908@yahoo.com](mailto:chantellegeorge1908@yahoo.com)



“I got involved with ASCLS as a student when my mentor here in Colorado, that was passionate about ASCLS, encouraged me to join. I saw right away how important it was to have a close scientific family working together for what we do in our career. I've been involved with ASCLS Colorado and have enjoyed all the experiences and education that has been provided along the way. True Science nerd family!”

Tiffany Mylius Region VIII [tb.kleymann@gmail.com](mailto:tb.kleymann@gmail.com)



“I got involved with ASCLS as a student knowing that I wanted to join a society that gives me the opportunity to make contributions to my profession. I wanted to surround myself with mentors and colleagues that I know care about our profession and its future. I have enjoyed serving in committees at the State and Regional level. Being an active member has helped me gain leadership and personal skills that contribute to my growth as a young laboratory professional.”

Peregrina Roberson Region XI [Peregrina.roberson@gmail.com](mailto:Peregrina.roberson@gmail.com)



“I got involved with ASCLS as a student because I was highly influenced by many of my professors who were very active within ASCLS. I've been blessed to be elected as the Georgia Student Forum Chair, then the National Student Forum Chair, to represent the voice of students across the nation. I'm thankful to be part of ASCLS, where we obtain professional growth, lifelong friendships, and a voice in congressional affairs. ASCLS has provided me with a professional gateway to my career!”

Lacey Campbell (Vice Chair) [laceyanncampbell@gmail.com](mailto:laceyanncampbell@gmail.com)



“I got involved with ASCLS because I wanted to be active within my profession, and the first step I took was becoming the National Student Forum Chair. I've joined something much bigger than myself that gives a VOICE to every one of its members concerns, opinions, competence and professionalism. I'm always learning something valuable, and I want to continue to spread that with others.”

Jasmin Davis ( Chair )

[Jasmin\\_825.davis@yahoo.com](mailto:Jasmin_825.davis@yahoo.com)

[Jdavis8@StLukesHealth.org](mailto:Jdavis8@StLukesHealth.org)

## What is ASCLS and why join? *by Rachael Fowler*

Ah, a great question! It is one I have heard fellow students and professionals ask many times. There are many aspects to the society I would like to point out that especially attracted me. Yes, we offer CE courses and have a helpful website but, many other organizations have that as well.

What ASCLS has that others do not is a major focus on Medical Laboratory Professionals in every field. We have fun meetings where you can travel, socialize, and learn about the new equipment that is emerging. You earn P.A.C.E.® credits for CE while being able to have face-to-face, valuable time with educators and professionals from all over who give you first hand experiences and stories of what can be seen in our profession. We offer many opportunities to be actively involved in your state, region, and nation with a great leadership development group there to guide you the whole way. We advocate and promote this profession with a loud voice by backing political positions that support clinical laboratory services and our profession. We are always pushing for improvements to a better future and security of our positions with strong visions and suggestions from our members.

Come join us in being part of the movement to the future for our profession and experience the value we have to offer you.

### *New Professionals Committee Message*

*The New Professionals Committee provides a forum where professional leaders can clarify the needs and wants of the newest generation within our profession, and communicate them to the Board of Directors for consideration and implementation to meet those needs and wants whenever possible.*

Check us out on the web!

<http://www.ascls.org/2013-11-06-17-39-45/new-professionals-committee>