

## HISTORY OF THE DCLS TASK FORCE AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

At the 2005 ASCLS in Orland, FL, President Susan Morris (2004-2005) convened the first ASCLS committee charged to develop the doctorate in clinical laboratory science. Publications that chronicle the development of the DCLS concept appear in issues of *Clinical Laboratory Science* from 2006-2009.

### 2005-2006:

- The Professional Doctorate Task Force (PDTF) charge: “Implement a Professional Doctorate pilot project involving one or more universities that will develop degree programs, and publish a white paper that demonstrates the importance and value of the doctoral level clinical laboratory professional’s role in the healthcare delivery system.”
- Eighteen (18) members were identified to serve on one of five working groups: (1) needs assessment, (2) curriculum, (3) practice, (4) funding, and (5) certification/licensure. A SharePoint portal was constructed for document development and communications. Leadership and membership rosters can be found elsewhere in the DCLS archives.

### 2006-2007:

- Collaborative work began with the Graduate Task Force of the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). Together the committees produced a Joint Educational Statement, DCLS guiding competency statements, and DCLS Standards framework.
- A DCLS curriculum was drafted, externally reviewed, and amended.
- ASCLS (President Shirlyn McKenzie, 2006-2007) and the PDTF responded to an AMA resolution against the DCLS practice.

### 2007-2008:

- Evolving toward ASCLS Board of Directors statutory authority for on-going oversight of doctoral development, the PDTF became the Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Science (DCLS) Transition Committee. Committee membership was reduced from 18 to 9 including ASCLS Board and staff liaisons.
- Ten universities expressed interest in DCLS program development. A master list of courses to be shared potentially among programs was developed. Institutions began sharing collaborative delivery models.
- A resolution supporting the DCLS practitioner was presented in the 2008 ASCLS House of Delegates.

### 2008-2009:

- The DCLS Transition Committee became the DCLS ad hoc Committee, July 2008. The committee was to have permanent direction and oversight for the development, implementation, recognition, integration, and evaluation of the DCLS
- Explorations into certification criteria were begun with the National Certification Agency (NCA). A potential applicant survey was designed and distributed. Workshops were conducted at CLEC and ASCLS meetings. A strategic plan was developed.

### 2009-2010:

- The DCLS ad hoc Committee transitioned to the DCLS Oversight Committee and a strategic plan for doctoral program development and oversight was developed.

### 2010-2011:

- Publications regarding the DCLS appeared in *ASCLS Today*.  
A survey regarding consultations was developed to inform DCLS competencies