



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 Cliff Cymrot MHA, MLS(ASCP), MT(AAB), MT(AMT).

Cliff is an Assistant Professor at The George Washington University and serves as the Program Director for the Undergraduate Medical Laboratory Science Programs. He has a wide range of topics he has taught in there and oversees students in all three of the MLS programs at GW. He is able to support and encourage the large variety of students due to his compassion and dedication and develops a rapid rapport with each new student cohort.

Cliff has been part of the founding leadership of the Capital Area Constituent Society of ASCLS which successfully re-launched in 2017. He's held board positions in ASCLS-DC as treasurer, secretary and now as president-elect concurrently with the responsibility of being the student forum advisor. He is also a 2020 graduate of the ASCLS National Leadership Academy and now serves as a member of the ASCLS Leadership Academy Committee.

Cliff is dedicated to teaching laboratory professionals because he found his own calling when he discovered and entered this field. While working on advancing his own credentials, he simultaneously began teaching at the MLT program he was trained in. As he has demonstrated through presentations at CLEC and ASHPS, he strives to use innovative techniques and programs to advance the medical laboratory profession. He also developed a community outreach program to high school students to inform and educate them about the practice of medical laboratory science and skills necessary in laboratory career fields.

When asked what his favorite personal accomplishment has been within ASCLS, Cliff states that his proudest achievement is simply helping teach students to become laboratory professionals. He hopes that he is able to teach the knowledge and skills that are necessary for them to perform in the laboratory. He also hopes



that he is able to inspire them to be a voice and face in the profession and become advocates for all of us one day.

Cliff's recommenders value the important role he played in the revival of the Capitol Area Society, ASCLS-DC. He currently continues to be highly involved and in recruitment activities for the society. They state that "Mr. Cymrot has a passion for spotlighting medical laboratory science beyond its professional borders. They further state that Cliff's professional demeanor and positivity greatly contributes to the GW educational team and that his contributions have been instrumental to the expansion of the GW offerings which now has three programs and enrolls over 200 students.

Cliff has been highly dedicated to the professional growth and education of young budding medical laboratory scientists. While this has been the highlight of his career to-date, he is also looking forward to his new great adventure which is the arrival of his first child. Whether it be new professionals or new life, Cliff will certainly be a welcome light in their development.